Bad economy means bad news for felines and fidos

David Wartel yows he'll never rescue

a stray dog. The Southfield man isn't hard-heart-

and southfeld man ish t and cear-de—just bilter.

Wartel combed neighborhood streets for the owner of a cuddly mutt found wandering outside his apartment earli-er this month. Unable to locate a home for the dog, he turned to an animal abelier.

shelter.
"They told me that as long as it wasn't sick, they'd keep it at least four days. I went to the shelter the next day to reclaim the dog and it wasn't there," Wartel recalled.

'It had been killed.'

to reciaim the day and it wasn't uner;
Wartel recalled.

"It had been killed."
Shelter managers like Debbie Thurman at the And-crueity Association, Detroit, say Martel, like most of the general public, misconceive animal euthansais policie.

"Wêre the distanging ground for unwanted pets. People think we're terrible because we ground with 952 cats with the same and th

streets or sold to research firms.

According to the Department of Agriculture, which regulates shellers, private organizations operate approximately 49 facilities statewide. Another 137 are publicly owned.

Dualso Demings, enforcement director, said his department receives 20-30 complaints about animal pounds and shops every year. Most pertain to pet shops.

Complaints about shellers or pounds generally involve sanitation and record-keeping. When Deming's office receives a complaint—a sit did from Wartel — it investigates and tries to settle the problem out of court. The department also inspects pet shops and shellers monthly.

"We've never had to go to that extent (court). The ming shellers monthly.

Wartel — it investigates and tries to settle the problem out of court. The department also inspects pet shops and shellers monthly.

"We've never had to go to that extent (court). The mings noted, "Some places have trouble keeping records, but by and large they do a good job."

WARTEL CONTENDS that in his case, the Anti-Cruelly Association carelessly harbored stray dogs and pets in a single pen, causing a mix-up which lead to the death of his dog.

Thurman insults that the dog was ill, making it a candidate for euthanasia under shelter policies.

State law requires shelters to detain stray adminst for a minimum four days before killing them. Animals with identification tags must say at least a week, and the shelter must attempt to contact the womer by telephone or regulated by contact the womer by telephone or regulated by contact the womer by telephone or regulated, and pontiac take in an average 20 animals daily. Although 30 percent of the dogs carry no identification, about one-third of them are claimed by owners. Approximately 1 percent are adopted. The rest die.

Carl Andersoo, manager, keeps dogs

Stretch & Sew

three to four days beyond the required limit, "if they look real good." A boy Scout troop belps with grooming, maxing the animals more adoptable at the Pontlac facility.

Southfield hired the county under a function or contract to concrate the shell the second of the state of the second of the s

Southfield hired the county under a five-year contract to specifier. In the past, annual operational costs averaged \$130,000 Jerry Tobin, public safety director, pegs that figure at \$80,000 this year.

"We've been in operation in Southfield for a year and a half," Anderson noted. "We run a humane and efficient shelter."

shelter."
But directors of at least two animal welfare organizations disagree.
Edith Buck, director of the Birming-ham Humane Society, and Lydia Stack, director of the Oakland Humane Soci-

ety, reject euthanasia as a humano animal control method.

"I'm not a fool: know I can't save everybody, But I word be the instrument of the control of the

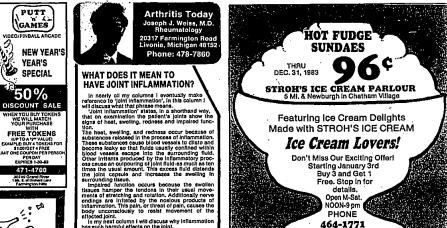
Buck admits that she accepts and places fewer animals than most other organizations because potential owners are carefully screened. And the organization evaluates each atimal to determine the most appropriate placement.

*FOR MANY HUMANZ societies it's cheaper to kill (a sick animal) that the placement of the placement. The placement is a lot of money and a lot of work. Other shelters deal in volume.

*But our philosophy is that those we take in, we hole? Mome are available, lock temporarily houses the animal in her own home or refers owners elsewhere with the realization that their dog probably will be destroyed (in other shelters).

*Shelters in the destroying business.

should be honest, Stack agreed. They should be honest, Stack agreed. They should tell people if a pet is unadoptable that it will be put to sicep. But they usually say they if try to find a but the state of the st



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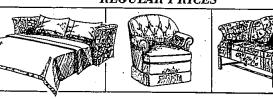
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