

Humane society befriends animals

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The personnel at shelters didn't create this situation.

Mrs. Buck said the society has many fine pets for adoption. Their owners may be forced to give them up because of divorce, allergies, a move to an apartment or other state or a death in the family.

"WE ENCOURAGE owners to keep their pets at home as long as possible until they're adopted," she said. "It's less traumatic for the dog. And we stress the fact that adopting an animal is a big responsibility."

"Some people expect too much and have no patience with animals. All pets need are love, affection and discipline. Those who want a puppy to grow up with their babies don't realize pups mature in a year and it takes kids four or five years. Many families want a female dog so their children can see the birth of their puppies. But the miracle of birth may end in death in an animal shelter."

Mrs. Buck said the society is trying to set up spaying and neutering programs to avoid the overpopulation of animals. Another proposed project is education for youngsters in school who can learn about the care of animals from films, slides and real pets in the classroom.

The society would also like to have a direct line for lost and found dog calls. The organization currently runs "dogs found" and "missing animals" and "homes wanted" ads in the local newspaper.

"We keep a listing of them on file as well as a list of people who want certain breeds. We have 30 or 40 names of families waiting to adopt."

The adoption agreement requires that the animal be kept as a house pet only and if the owner decides to relinquish the animal within a year, the society has the right of first acceptance.

The society reserves a 14-day right to regain custody of the animal if it's found that the new owner has misrepresented his intentions for the animal. If the society receives legitimate complaints about the animal from the owner, the organization will regain custody.

If the new owner decides not to keep the pet within 30 days of adoption, he can return him to the society and request a refund.

Edith Bush and blind beagle, Beegoe (Staff photo).

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