

WHILE the Toledo Animal Shelter is too small to be adequate headquarters for the animal division of the Toledo Humane Society, it has new safety cages and room for large as well

as small pets. Its cleanliness and sanitation are inspected regularly by Ed Steusloff, left, chief agent, and Arthur G. Keller, secretary of the society.

*It's A Friend  
In Need  
For All Types  
Of Animals*

## THE Toledo

Story by CLAIR E. MILLER  
Blade Staff Writer

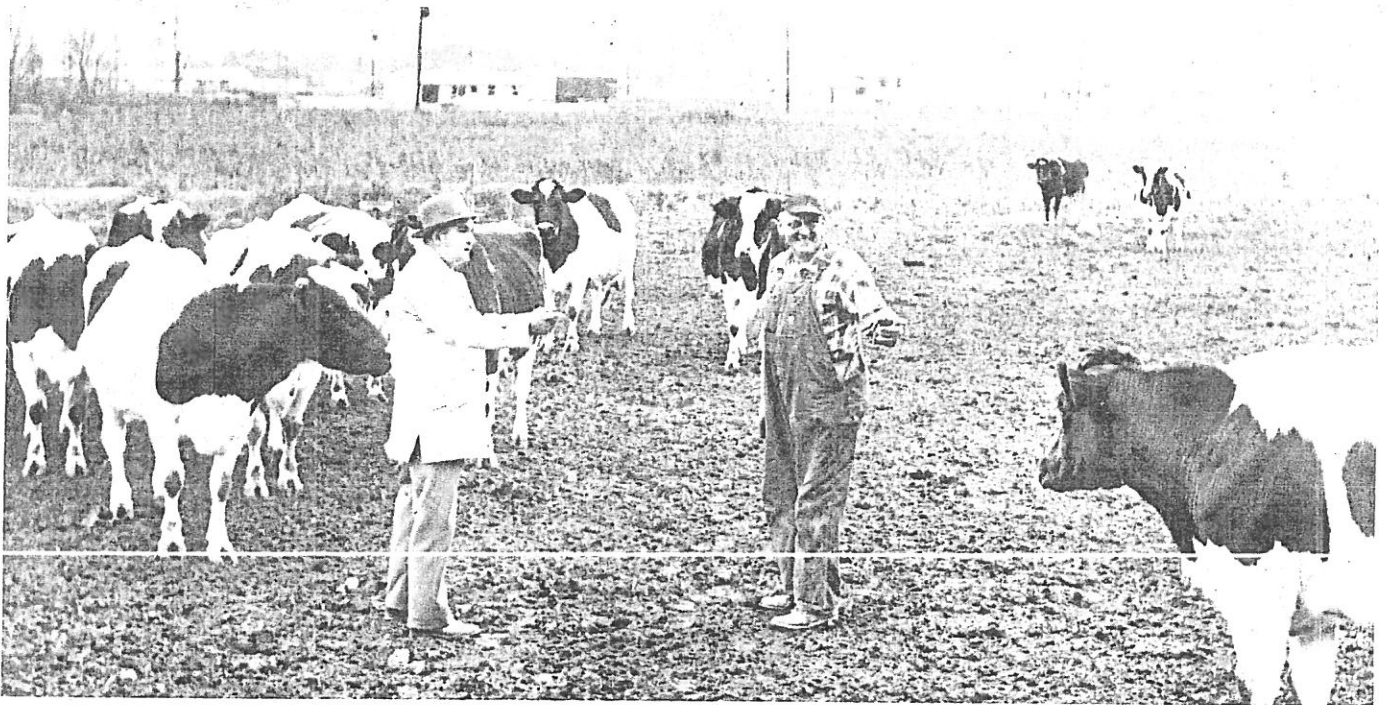
LEADING a dog's life . . . or a cat's . . . or a horse's . . . or a cow's . . . or a parakeet's is done under expert surveillance in Toledo and Lucas County.

"There's a dog lying in my yard covered with snow. He may be injured" . . . "My neighbors leave their nice dog chained outside and never feed him" . . . "A load of hogs just upset on (State) Rt. 20 and I think several are hurt."

Day and night a steady flow of such messages are received in the tiny, radio-equipped office of the animal division of the Toledo Humane Society at Wabash and 11th Streets. While there are staff members on duty day and night, frequent messages have to be passed on to Chief Agent Ed Steusloff at his home near Swanton. And, of course, many interrupt his sleep.

The division is in charge of enforcing state laws governing the treatment and care of animals as well as performing a myriad of services designed to educate and assist animal owners in the handling and care of their pets and other livestock. While the society agents are empowered to prosecute persons found guilty of being cruel to animals, they find this seldom is necessary after the human side of the equation is made to understand the proper way to handle the targets of their cruelty, according to Mr. Steusloff.

Heart of the division's operation is the



THE LIVING CONDITIONS of milk cows in the area are a concern of the Toledo Humane Society. Mr. Steusloff checks a fine herd owned by Herbert H. Schneider, Byrne Road.

# Humane Society

far-too-small office where Mrs. Steusloff is manager assisted by Gloria Swartz, clerk. Mr. Steusloff and a staff of three assistants are out of the office most of the time answering calls received in the office and forwarded to them by two-way radio. Mr. Steusloff has a car, while one man operates the animal shelter ambulance and two other men are assigned to the division's truck. All the vehicles are radio-equipped.

When he isn't answering calls received by radio, Mr. Steusloff has other duties which keep him moving about the city and county. One is weekly inspection of riding stables. There are six in the county, and he checks these to make certain the barns are clean and the horses clean, healthy and not over-worked.

One day, the chief agent recalls, he was approaching a stable and noticed a horse, just returned by a rider, being turned over to another customer.

Moving onto the scene, Mr. Steusloff found not one but nine horses with sore backs. The owner became angry when the humane agent ordered the horses left in their stalls until their backs were healed, but he now realizes this was the proper way to treat the animals, which were providing him with a regular source of income, Mr. Steusloff explained.

Then there was the case of the persons who were killing dogs, cats and other animals

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ROLLIE HINELINE, society agent, picks up the stray dogs and cats (as well as other animals)

reported as homeless. The society makes every effort to find a home for these animals.

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in their neighborhood by placing poison around their property. "It took me five years, but I finally put an end to it and they were fined \$200," the chief agent reported. Getting evidence to prove what everyone in the neighborhood claimed about the poison was a difficult task, but it finally was obtained when the guilty parties signed an agreement not to put out "any more" poison.

Many callers ask the division to rescue cats that have scurried up a tree or made their way onto a house roof. Best policy in such cases is to leave the cats alone, the chief agent advises. They reached their perches without help and almost always will return to the ground the same way when they are ready. However, the division officials realize the concern of the owners of such pets so they make every effort to retrieve the animals.

In addition to being on the humane society staff, Mr. Steusloff is dog warden for the city. He said the recent passage of the dog leash law by City Council has cut down extensively on the complaints that dogs are wandering around yards and digging up lawns.

Of course such complaints still are being received and the dog warden has instructed his deputies to "be gentlemen" in their enforcement of the leash law. When a dog is found running loose in the city, it is returned to its owner, if possible, and a warning given the owner. Prosecution follows if the dog is found on the loose again or if unlicensed dogs are picked up.

Mr. Steusloff also inspects farm facilities



PART of the duties performed by the chief agent is checking living conditions of all animals. During the fall race meet at Maumee Downs, more than 800 horses were checked. Evidences of cruelty to the horses resulted in dismissal from the race track of any owner or trainer.



A TINY OFFICE at the animal shelter, 610 South 11th St., is the heart of all the rescue work performed night and day by the Toledo Humane Society. Mrs. Edward Steusloff, office manager,

and Gloria Swartz, clerk, operate a two-way radio to contact agents roaming outlying areas so that suffering animals may be taken care of with speed.

and checks farm animals if he receives complaints of mistreatment or unsanitary quarters. Besides this, he and his staff inspect slaughterhouses as well as livestock shipped into the slaughterhouses.

It is in this line of duty that the chief agent occasionally is called out to examine livestock involved in traffic accidents or being transported in trucks held up along the highway because the drivers have been arrested. He makes certain such livestock is properly fed and watered or, in case of injury, either destroyed or given veterinary attention.

At the animal shelter, housed in the same building as the division office, dogs are the principal concern. However, cats, some rabbits, a few squirrels and infrequent birds find refuge.

Biggest visitors ever handled by the shelter were two bears which were left with no one to care for them last summer when their owner died here. Pleas for someone to give them a home resulted in the bears being shipped to Logansport, Ind., where they were added to the attractions of the city zoo.

The animal division restored a total of 1,000 grown dogs to their owners during the past fiscal year. Homes were found for 389 dogs, 452 pups and 130 cats. The division placed 66 other animals in homes.

The staff picked up 1,868 injured, sick or neglected animals of all kinds and investigated and settled 229 cases involving cruelty to animals. Inspections involved 1,947 dogs, 6,356 horses, 12,354 cattle, 8,027 calves, 21,991 hogs, 2,117 sheep and 5,384 other animals.

When animals are injured or abandoned, they eventually must be destroyed at the shelter unless a home can be found for them. Every effort is exhausted to place them before any are destroyed, Mr. Steusloff declared.

The division is an integral part of the society operation, which began 75 years ago on Dec. 3, 1883, when James M. Brown was elected first president. The society has had but one other president, Walter F. Brown, who succeeded his late father.

Other officers of the society today include Arthur G. Keller who directs the main office at 418 Erie St. One of the major tasks of this office is looking after the welfare of children without proper parental help. The children's division also distributes court-ordered support payments to children, aged parents and families whose wage earners are in prison.

Its complete financial self-sufficiency makes the Toledo Humane Society unique in its field. The agency receives no support from the Community Chest or from public tax funds, but depends for all of its operating capital upon the good will contributions of individuals and organizations.

While these have been regularly forthcoming through the years, the need for greater income has become acute, Mr. Brown and other officers point out. Larger facilities and bigger staffs are needed both at the main office and the animal division quarters. It is the hope of the society leaders, however, that added society membership fees and contributions will increase sufficiently in the near future to make this expansion possible.

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**GROWING** popularity of riding in northwestern Ohio sends agents on periodic investigations of the conditions of the horses. Mrs. Donald Figmaka, Walnut Hills Riding Academy, Box 324, Holland-Sylvania Road, gets the society's "seal of approval" after inspection.



**CONDITIONS** of hogs coming into the Toledo market and the conditions of their slaughtering are checked at the Schmidt Provision Co., 220 Matzinger Rd., by Mr. Steusloff, left. With him are Joseph W. Arnold, vice president of the firm, and Clay Happy, stock buyer. The cane carried by Mr. Happy is for the purpose of keeping the hogs turning so that full inspection is possible.