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## The Writing and Production of a Series of Mini-Documentary Radio Programs on Animal Control and Care in Logan

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THE WRITING AND PRODUCTION OF A SERIES OF  
MINI-DOCUMENTARY RADIO PROGRAMS  
ON ANIMAL CONTROL AND CARE IN LOGAN

by

Camille Cornish - Dryden

A report submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree

of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

Communication

(Plan B)

Approved:

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Major Professor

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UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY  
Logan, Utah

1982

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*Camille Cornish-Dryden*

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### Statement of Problem

Human beings have for ages domesticated animals which they have kept for companionship as pets. Originally man and his animals lived on scattered farms and ranches where pets had plenty of room to roam. As human social structures changed and people crowded into towns and cities, the matter of controlling one's pets in order to prevent their becoming the neighbor's pests became a serious concern. Next to fights over water rights in the west, perhaps the most frequent cause for contention was the control of one's pets.

As in many other localities, these pet control problems have plagued Logan City and Cache County, Utah. City Recorder Venal Jones explained to this writer that ever since 1866 animal control problems have been the subject of controversial City Council meetings on the average of about every six months.

As long ago as 1964 the Logan City Council felt

it was necessary to appoint an Animal Control Committee. This Committee consisted of citizens who would periodically meet during the year to discuss animal control problems and act as an advisory board to the Council.

The Cache County Commission has also had its share of animal control problems. The Commission appointed the county's first animal control officer in 1974. In 1975, representatives of the Cache Animal Protection League presented a proposal to establish a county-wide, centrally located animal shelter and a uniform animal control program for Cache County. In response to that proposal, the Commission appointed a County Animal Control Program Study Committee the following year. Then, in 1977, Viva Lynn and other representatives from the Cache Animal Protection League discussed a proposed animal control program for the county. Cache Animal Protection League President, Viva Lynn, also asked if the county would pay to euthanize those animals brought to the shelter or pound by persons other than the animal control officer. In the following year,

representatives of the Cache Valley Humane Society expressed their concern over the harassment and killing of wildlife by persons on snowmobiles in the Clarkston area. They requested that a special officer be appointed to patrol that area.

As animal problems continued in 1978, an angry citizen submitted a complaint and suit against Cache County. He claimed that the animal control officer shot his dog in the neck and left it to die without notifying the owner. He claimed that the officer admitted that the dog was not trying to attack the sheep when he shot him, but was trying to escape from the pen. The owner also stated that his dog had never been seen killing or bothering sheep previously. The owner claimed he suffered over \$6,000 in damages, injury, inconvenience, and anxiety. Problems of a similar nature as those just mentioned continued through 1981.

In 1980 alone, animal control was discussed at ten of the twelve Logan City Council meetings. The Council and Logan residents primarily discussed the establishment or revision of ordinances. Ordinances have dealt with dogs attacking persons or animals;

animal waste; dogs running at large; dogs disturbing the neighborhood; vaccination and registration fees; redemption or sale of impounded dogs; three day confinement for animals in the pound before euthanasia; and limitation of three dogs per 6,000 square feet of property.

It appeared then, in the spring and summer of 1981, that there were a sufficient number of animal control problems at the city and county level to prove the value and need for a series of informative, influential, and motivational radio programs dealing with the subject of animal pet control.



### Purpose

As the number of Cache Valley residents has increased, so have the problems associated with the increasing population of animals. This writer believed that, through the production of a series of radio mini-documentaries, a certain degree of socially useful information could be presented to the citizens of Cache Valley. The radio medium seemed to be the most useful and practical method for informing and educating the general public about the Valley's growing problems concerning the care and control of pets.

Because of a personal interest in animals, this writer undertook the production of a series of programs. After talking with Mrs. Viva Lynn, head of the local Humane Society or Cache Animal Protection League, this writer was convinced that, through education, the community could be alerted to the need for its concern and involvement in animal care and control problems. Even though Cache Valley had achieved great progress in the last few years, Mrs. Lynn believed that there was still plenty of room for improvement when it came to the proper care and

treatment of animals.

In analyzing the best way to utilize the radio medium, it was decided to employ the documentary form rather than the news format because the documentary, it appeared, would be the more effective and appropriate method for achieving the program's objectives. The documentary seeks to inform but, above all, it seeks to influence. (Bluem, 1965, p.14). "From a purist's viewpoint, documentary has validity only if it involves a strong effort to move an audience, if not to overt action, then at least to positive expressions of attitude." (Bluem, 1965, p.22).

At first the possibility of producing an extended documentary was considered. After discussion of the subject with the news director of Cache Valley's public radio station, it was decided that a five-part series would be done consisting of four to six mini-documentaries.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### Documentary Objectives and Characteristics

Ever since the famous documentary filmmaker John Grierson first coined the term documentary in 1926 (Field, 1975), many have borrowed the term and applied it to their own efforts. Its use has often become so broad that many have found it a difficult term to define. However, since the early 1950's there has been a great deal of documentary work in television which makes definition possible (Bluem, 1965).

Grierson thought of documentary film primarily as a medium for reaching public opinion (Field, 1975). Bluem believes that the documentary's function is to make drama from life but that to be valid, it must involve more than presentation of records of life. He feels there must be a social purpose in its conception and use of a technology which permits a significant impact in its dissemination. By

presenting socially useful information to the listening public, Bluem feels that the public will develop knowledge and understanding which will lead to societal action. Thus, in order to reach public opinion, Bluem believes that "a valid documentary should be designed to further and advance individual and social causes, values, conditions, and institutions by inspiring man to consider their significance and relationship to himself as a social being." (Bluem, 1965, p.13).

Field appears to agree with Grierson and Bluem, that whether the documentary is investigative or purely informative, it is a social document. To demonstrate this idea, Field lists such examples as drug abuse, mental health institutions, slum conditions, exaggerated land sales, and auto repair overcharges as popular topics. He feels that it was John Grierson who initiated social analysis in documentary films. As Field puts it, "documentaries should always be the product of careful research, and their revelations have often been the catalyst for social change." (Field, 1975, p.11).

The mini-documentary is comparatively new to television but many stations have been producing

mini-documentaries for a decade. Up to 1963, television stations were presenting 15-minute daily newscasts. Since then, the trend has been to enlarge newscasts anywhere from a half-hour to 90 minutes. In response to this trend, former NBC executive producer Reuven Frank sent a 5000-word memorandum to his staff. What Mr. Frank had to say about the news story then seems applicable to the mini-documentary today:

"Every news story should, without sacrifice of probity or responsibility, display the attributes of fiction and drama. It should have structure and conflict, problem and denouement, rising and falling action, a beginning, a middle, and an end. These are not only the essentials of drama; they are the essentials of narrative. We are in the business of narrative because we are in the business of communication."  
(Field, 1975, p.11).

The mini-documentary has its own format, and the impact, as Paul Harris writing in *Variety* has noted, is threefold: (1) It allows a station to better perform its civic responsibilities by zeroing in on a community issue to a larger audience than through the old half-hour documentaries; (2) a crack investigative news team lends prestige to a station; and (3) the series creates an important source for

selling local news shows and attracting new audiences (Field, 1975).

Since newscasts attract a large audience, the insertion of the mini-documentary within the regularly scheduled 6, 10, or 11 o'clock programs reaches a greater viewing public than the single-shot documentary. Nevertheless, the local station may consolidate the series into a half-hour documentary for additional impact. Or as WMAL-TV did with its mini-series on amnesty, it may present a vigorous pro-and-con discussion with panelists and studio audience. In this instance, WMAL-TV capitalized on the interest they knew existed before the mini-series was used to present the amnesty story (Field, 1975).

Station policy is often set as a result of undertaking production of documentaries. The research performed by the reporter and embodied in his mini-documentary may lead to an editorial by the station; it rarely happens the other way around. Philosophically, the reporter is seeking the truth. But journalists are rarely, if ever, in a position to establish the truth about an issue for themselves and they are

therefore, almost entirely dependent on self-interested sources for the version of reality that they report. This is most common in the political arena where half-truths abound and even the most perceptive mind cannot always distinguish between reality and dissimulation (Field, 1975).

But the mini-documentary reporter is not dependent on unrevealed sources. He speaks to the people who are directly involved: slum dwellers, land owners whose lots are flooded after every rainstorm, automobile mechanics, career school graduates unable to find the promised job. "The mini-documentary can tackle social problems with exactitude and intimacy." (Field, 1975, p.37).

The mini-documentary as defined by Field is a series of brief integrated episodes dealing with a subject of prime interest to the local community, or of national scope, and presented within the body of daily newscasts. (Field, 1975). But although the mini-documentary deals with issues, people and events of the news, it is not a news story. It goes much more in depth than a news story, exploring

not only what happened but, as far as possible, the reasons for what happened, the attitudes and feelings of the people involved, the interpretations of experts, the reactions of other citizens who might be affected, and the implications and significance of the subject not only for some individuals, but for the whole of society. (Hilliard, 1976).

The difference between the news story and the mini-documentary may sometimes not relate so much to content as it does to approach. Where the news report is oriented toward objectivity, the mini-documentary is oriented toward interpretation and often presents a distinct point of view. (Hilliard, 1976).

The mini-documentary also goes far beyond the feature spot. A series may run from 5 to 12 weeks and even longer. A reporter may be assigned to mini-documentaries exclusively. He may also spend weeks or even months in researching, planning, writing, and producing a series. (Field, 1975).

The vast majority of television and radio stations appear to prefer the mini-documentary to the full-length documentary. This became evident



as a result of a survey in 1975 which was sent to 115 stations in the United States. The 40% return of the survey amply illustrated that the mini-documentary had become a way of life for newscasts. For example, WALB-TV, Albany, Georgia, states that the mini-documentary "gives you a flexible vehicle. You can start with a mini-documentary, then expand to a half-hour, if justified. Also, it is the best use of a very limited film budget." WNAC-TV, in Boston, prefers mini-documentaries "for wider exposure in our newscasts." KIRO-TV, Seattle, Washington, asserts that "mini-documentaries are an important element of our news." (Field, 1975, p.239).

There is hardly a subject of community or national interest, whether rape, vasectomy, housing, or heart disease, that has not found its way into a perceptive delineation through the mini-documentary. Its impact on the community is tremendous, 75% of the stations responding to the 1975 survey stated that the mini-documentaries they produced had a salutary effect. Among those stations was KENS-TV, San Antonio, Texas: "Our program on nursing homes initiated investigation by the state welfare department."

KGO-TV, San Francisco, California, explained that "Our series on handicapped persons produced (corrective) city legislation." WTOL-TV, Toledo, Ohio, said: "We believe our series on rape influenced changes in police procedure." KDFW-TV, Dallas, Texas, said that "Our series on dangerous intersections resulted in improvements being made." From these selected comments, it is reasonable to assume that the mini-documentary is a potent force in community relations. It is an image builder for the radio or television station. It induces empathy from the viewers and lets them know that the station is acting in the public interest. (Field, 1975, p.240).

There are no rigid guidelines to follow in the development of a mini-documentary. This is because one is dealing with an area of creativity - and the essence of creativity is originality, the ability to combine talent and imagination in the presentation of any theme, to capture attention, and to maintain interest. (Field, 1975). In fact it is sometimes said that next to the drama the documentary, or mini-documentary, is the highest form of television and radio art. "At its best the documentary not only

synthesizes the creative arts of the broadcast media, but it also makes a single contribution to public understanding by interpreting the past, analyzing the present or anticipating the future." (Hilliard, 1976, p.32).

Despite its flexibility, experts often attempt to provide suggestions for structuring the documentary. The primary consideration is usually comprehensive research of the personality or situation involved. Before the reporter/writer ventures out into the field to record and film his interviews, he must prepare himself by consulting books, reports, newspaper articles, periodicals, references, and other appropriate sources (Field, 1975). In the long run, you get out of an interview what you put into it. "Flimsy research will produce flimsy information either because you have not asked the right questions or because you don't have the background knowledge to handle the answers." (Metzler, 1977, p.17).

The lead-in to each episode of a mini-documentary is all important. The lead should be an ear catcher but the content of the story is also important.

A mini-documentary is an actuality; that is, it deals with on-going events and with the people directly concerned. Structurally, each episode should be an entity in itself and yet an integral part of the series. Each segment may vary from as little as three minutes to as long as ten minutes. The number of episodes may be as few as three or as many as twelve (Field, 1975).

The use of corroborating statements by officials is not only a standard device of the mini-documentary's structure, but it serves to reinforce the credibility of the program. But there are always at least two sides to a controversy. The inclusion of rebuttals during the course of a series or as a follow-up is a factor unique to the mini-documentary. This adds recency value to the mini-documentary and contributes greatly to its newsworthiness (Field, 1975).

Though each episode of a series should be an entity in itself and yet part of an integrated whole, there is no standard guide for recapitulation. An examination of many programs shows that there are numerous variations. Some of the stations use no recapitulation on the basis that it is time-

consuming and unnecessary. The audience will discover the theme of the mini-documentary from each opening statement; and since each episode is planned as a complete story, it is not essential that the viewer watch every episode. In some cases it may be desirable to use a brief concluding statement in attempts to arouse the interest of the viewer to watch succeeding episodes (Field, 1975).

Documentaries on the Subject of Animal Control

During the search of the literature, this writer made an effort to discover whether something similar had been done which might serve as a model for these mini-documentary productions. A review of the Master's theses in broadcasting proved unfruitful except for several indirectly related subjects. Among them were: "An analysis of the documentary radio program, 1943"; "A description of the procedures and problems in the development of the radio actuality documentary series 'Document: Deep South', 1955"; "Description of procedures and principles of developing actuality documentaries of radio programs, 1960"; and "New forms for the radio documentary, 1971". Many of these theses were difficult or impossible to acquire, and none dealt directly with the subject of concern.

I found some documentary procedures and techniques illustrated in several sample programs presented in Hilliard's text, Writing for Television and Radio. Those examples for radio included; "How Red Cross Does It",

a local commercial production; "**Day By Day**", an award winning program produced by a Michigan university; "The American Challenge", produced by CBS; "The Piedmont, North Carolina Farmer and Politics", produced by a North Carolina university; and one of broadcasting's finest documentaries, CBS' "Who Killed Michael Farmer?".

Many of the creative ideas developed in these programs however, came from classroom experiences, other texts, and observations of radio and TV programs.

## CHAPTER III

## METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Inception of the Programs

It was believed that the station most likely to have interest in this production would be one of National Public Radio's affiliates, KUSU-FM in Logan. At least twice a day KUSU presents feature stories or mini-documentaries which highlight local public affairs. After consultation with KUSU's news and public affairs director, Lee Austin, an appropriate format was selected for the series. It was decided that a series of five mini-documentaries be produced, each from four to six minutes long, and each episode dealing with a different aspect of the animal control problem. It was believed that five short episodes would serve better than one, longer, extended treatment running for a single half hour.



### Sources of Information

In order to obtain information and develop ideas for this production on animal control, the writer consulted both verbal and written sources. For obvious reasons it was decided to interview local authorities who were experts on the subject. Cache Animal Protection League President, Viva Lynn, was first chosen for her experience in administration, education, and community assistance in the area of animal care and control. Cache County Humane Officer Ray Lynn, who incidentally is Viva Lynn's husband, was selected for his knowledge of the local animal control and humane ordinances as well as for his first hand experiences with animal abuse cases. Logan Animal Control Officer Larry Forsberg was also a key figure included in the interviews because of his familiarity with ordinances, his background in law enforcement, and his personal experiences involving people and their pets.

Additional information was also found revealing the extent of the animal control problem by reviewing

the minutes of both the Logan City Council and the Cache County Commission as well as letters to the editor and other articles in the Logan Herald Journal, Logan, Utah's daily newspaper.

### Organization and Writing

After reviewing the principles and procedures of documentary writing as noted in Chapter II, the writer attempted to incorporate them into the productions. To begin with, the series was organized into five different subjects, each dealing with a particular aspect of the problem. The five topics covered were as follows:

- Episode 1 - Statement of the problem of animal control in Cache Valley
- Episode 2 - Discussion of the local animal control ordinances
- Episode 3 - Description of the functions and purpose of the Cache Animal Protection League
- Episode 4 - Discussion of the necessity of a spay/neuter clinic in Cache Valley
- Episode 5 - Discussion of the need for a county-wide animal shelter

The techniques used in writing the script included opening each program with a cold lead, usually composed of a short, attention getting

quote from one of the interviewed authorities, which was intended to lend force to the program. The narrator, following the lead, presented additional information indicating to listeners that a problem would be presented and solutions sought.

The "talking heads" syndrome was avoided by keeping the quotes and statements brief. For the same reason frequent cuts were made between each interview and the narration. These techniques were employed in order to prevent the programs from sounding like a series of taped talks.

"The mini-documentary should be entertaining in the widest meaning of that word," says Field, 1975 (p.36). Since there is no excuse for dullness, only specific detailed quotes and anecdotes of the respondents were used. The answers and taped excerpts were kept as short as possible.

Although the documentary is dramatic, it is more or less a faithful representation of a true story (Hilliard, 1976). However, through editing and narration, any series of sequences can become twisted and biased. In writing the script for this

production, an attempt was made to avoid the element of bias, while at the same time presenting a definite point of view.

At the foundation of a successful production lies the interview. In order to obtain valuable and imaginative responses, the interviewer asked questions that were probing, open-ended, reflective, and interpretive. After performing the appropriate research, the interviewer proceeded to follow the suggested guidelines for the production of a successful interview.

### Recording and Editing

This was indeed the most difficult and time consuming step. It was begun by recording the interviews on a Panasonic RQ-337 cassette tape recorder. The built-in microphone was used to record the first two interviews. Only the third interview was recorded with a hand held microphone because of its limited availability.

Each recording was then transcribed onto paper to facilitate the script writing. Each interview was then organized into categories according to each topic discussed. An outline was made for each script prior to assembling each episode. The first two scripts were written during production in the recording studio. The last three scripts were written prior to the actual production in the studio after it was decided that this was the easiest and most practical way to proceed.

Since this was not to be an elaborate production with **music** and sound effects, only the minimum amount of recording equipment was necessary for

studio production. The equipment used included two Revox reel-to-reel recorders, a simple control board, a narrator's microphone, and a patch panel to feed in the interviews from the cassette recorder to the reel-to-reel.

The original recordings of each program were made by alternately dubbing the live narration with the pre-recorded interviews onto the reel-to-reel tape. Some mistakes were edited out during this dubbing. Additional corrections were made using the cutting and splicing method.

After the final production was completed, each episode was dubbed onto a reel-to-reel and a cassette tape which were to be used for subsequent on-air presentation. The two different types of tape were used to allow play on either kind of machine.

It is difficult to determine the actual number of hours spent by the producer on the entire series. A rough estimate, however, would be about 60 hours.

## CHAPTER IV

## SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After having completed this production it was obvious to this writer that, as with any other human endeavor, there was room for improvement. This was this writer's first attempt at writing and producing a multi-interview, five-part mini-documentary for radio. Despite prior thought, planning, and research, several problems emerged on or close to completion of the production.

It became evident that the production could have benefitted by the use of additional interviews. Originally the writer had considered recording responses from other authorities, citizens, and veterinarians. Instead it was decided to limit it to three main interviews since it appeared almost overwhelming even to sort out quotes for five scripts, on five different topics, using only those three interviews.

Another possible weakness in the production is that it may appear too one-sided. As mentioned



earlier in this paper, a documentary should maintain a definite point of view. However, in order to maintain authority and credibility, a documentary should also include rebuttals whenever possible. This enables the public to decide for itself whether it is for or against the issue.

Only through applying principles which have proved effective can one hope to develop radio programs that will be effective in influencing public opinion. When writing a script, clarity is an essential consideration. This can be achieved by providing concrete illustrations and repetition. Brevity is requisite since the listening audience becomes bored easily without the added visual stimuli which TV provides.

Preparation for interviews is a key factor in the production of any radio program. A pre-interview is recommended at which time initiatory questions may be asked. Then, after further careful research, more in-depth questions can be developed.

This investigator feels relatively satisfied with the results of the production and that it was

a valuable learning experience as well as becoming a satisfying achievement.

However, the real value lies perhaps in this report. It can certainly be used as a source of information by others interested in this particular kind of investigative reporting and broadcasting.

## CHAPTER V

## SCRIPTS

Script ISuggested Introduction

Annor:        Today we will listen to the first in a series of programs dealing with animal control in Cache Valley. In this series, reporter Camille Cornish takes an in-depth look at the problem of stray, abused, and neglected pets in our area. She talks with local authorities who will explain just how our community has, and could cope with this problem.

SPEAKER        TIME

V.Lynn:        (0:20)        Just this morning I read a letter in the paper from a lady in North Logan whose dog was shot with an arrow. The dog tried to chew the arrow out of its side, was paralyzed by the time the owners got home, and lost so much blood that even though they rushed it to the vet, it died.

Narr:         (0:19)        Parents may have often been asked if they know where their children are, but how many pet owners could honestly tell you exactly where their dogs or cats are right now?

I'm Camille Cornish and I spoke with local Humane Society President Viva Lynn, who thinks that the animals who are not on their own property are usually the ones that wind up in trouble.

SPEAKER	TIME	
V.Lynn:	(0:19)	Well, not too long ago there was a letter to the editor from a lady in Trenton who said her dog was romping in a field and somebody shot it with a gun. Well, in all of these cases, at least 99% of the time, the dog was not on its own property.
Narr:	(0:27)	There are lots of people who think of Cache Valley as a typical rural area, with plenty of room for their dogs to run loose. Well, according to Viva Lynn, head of the local Humane Society or Cache Animal Protection League as it's better known, the open space has been disappearing with the increase in the Valley's population. In fact, ever since it was founded in 1975, the Cache Animal Protection League has encouraged people to keep their dogs confined.

SPEAKER	TIME	
V.Lynn:	(0:20)	This is no longer an area where you can allow your animal to run loose. Even on the farms now you run the risk of your animal chasing your neighbor's sheep. People are not used to thinking in those terms, and it's very difficult to think in those terms.
Narr:	(0:08)	But, even though strays have become a major problem in the Valley, Logan Animal Control Officer Larry Forsberg doesn't blame it on the dogs. "Whose fault is it?"
Forsberg:	(0:09)	Well, it's the owner's fault because if they cared about the dog, it wouldn't be on the street. It would be penned up somewhere.
Narr:	(0:06)	It seems as if these same sentiments are also shared by County Humane Officer and Special Deputy Sheriff Ray Lynn.

SPEAKER	TIME	
R.Lynn:	(0:06)	It's our feeling, very strongly, that most of the problems are caused by the pet owner.
Narr:	(0:09)	And, all too often it's the owner's carelessness that leads his dog to its unpleasant end. Animal Control Officer Larry Forsberg ...
Forsberg:	(0:10)	It just comes right down to the fact that putting a dog to sleep is actually punishing a dog for its owner's irresponsibility.
Narr:	(0:10)	Even though the owner sometimes means well and has good intentions, he doesn't often realize the risks he may be taking with his dog's life. Viva Lynn ...

SPEAKER	TIME	
V.Lynn:	(0:25)	We have people call us and say I'm not going to chain up my dog because an animal should be free. And I say, do you mean free to be run over by a car or be shot by an arrow and suffer? And they say yes, it's better that they be free and let that happen than not be free.
Narr:	(0:07)	But, what may be considered freedom to some people, can also mean cruelty to others. Larry Forsberg ...
Forsberg:	(0:30)	If a dog is running at large, as far as I'm concerned, that's cruelty. Number one, that dog could be hit and not die, it could be severely injured, or it could be killed on the street. Anybody that lets his dog run loose all the time, as far as I'm concerned, doesn't deserve to have that animal because they don't care enough about it to take care of it.



SPEAKER	TIME	
Narr:	(0:20)	If more pet owners did care enough to control their dogs, they could avoid facing costly legal suits - which are often won by their angry neighbors. In most cases though, the neighbors decide to take the law into their own hands, and, once again, it's the dog who suffers. Humane Officer Ray Lynn ...
R.Lynn:	(0:25)	Most people are so spineless that they would rather stick a gun out the door, shoot the dog and not let anyone know who did it, than they would to actually pick up the phone and call their neighbor and say, "Say, Pal, would you keep your dog (locked) up? If you don't I'm going to have to call the Animal Control Officer." But most people are so afraid of confrontation that they won't do this.
Narr:	(0:01)	Viva Lynn ...

SPEAKER	TIME	
V.Lynn:	(0:17)	The person becomes so frustrated that he thinks the only way out is to do away with the animal. This is not right and he should be prosecuted for it, but, the owner is at fault too, for not keeping that animal locked up to keep him from bothering the neighbors.
Narr:	(0:12)	One way or another, the dog always seems to wind up in the middle of the dispute. Next time we'll take a look at a person's legal rights, as a pet owner, and as an angry and frustrated neighbor.
	TOTAL:	
	(5:00)	

###

Script IISuggested Introduction

Annecr:           On our last program, reporter Camille Cornish discussed the increasing problem of stray dogs in the Valley with local humane and animal control authorities. Today's program deals with a person's legal rights and how he can use these rights to protect himself and the dog from needless pain and suffering.

SPEAKER      TIME

- Narr:            (0:20)        Even though animal cruelty laws have improved in recent years, Cache County Humane Officer Ray Lynn told me that it's difficult to protect animals from people who don't know or don't care about the laws. I'm Camille Cornish and I was amazed at the number of cruelty cases in which Mr. Lynn has been involved during his seven years as Humane Officer.
- R.Lynn:          (0:22)        Another situation was when a fellow was baiting traps for dogs on his property in Millville. He was enticing the animals onto the property and leg trapping them. Then he would hit them over the head with a shovel to kill them, when he happened to be there. We also arrested him and got a conviction on him.
- Narr:            (0:22)        Fortunately, most people don't take such drastic measures when they're annoyed by a stray dog. Under certain conditions though, a person does have the right to kill someone else's dog.

For example, a dog can be shot if he's caught harrassing livestock or if he's attacking a human being.

I asked County Humane Officer Ray Lynn to describe the other circumstances which make it legal to shoot a dog.

R.Lynn (0:15) The recent Supreme Court decisions said that one animal attacking another, like if your neighbor's dog comes over and attacks your dog on your property, you're free to shoot that other dog.

Narr: (0:03) What if it's not on your property?

R.Lynn: (0:15) If it's not on your property, unless you're in hot pursuit, in other words the other animal has attacked your dog and is now fleeing and you're chasing it, you can still kill the animal under those circumstances.

Narr: (0:06) Keep in mind though, that just because a dog is trespassing on your property, that doesn' give you the right to kill him.

R.Lynn: (0:25) What you can't do, and where people get in trouble doing around here and are charged very frequently, is where some guy has had some problems with dogs and a dog walks across his pasture and he shoots it. He can't do that. What he can do is file a complaint against the owner for a charge called animal trespass.

Narr: (0:10) Well, this may not make sense to some people. They don't realize that the courts consider a dog as a person's property, and the law states that you're not allowed to destroy their property.

R.Lynn: (0:28) Now recognizing that animals are property, you can apply virtually every set of conditions to that animal that you can apply to an automobile. If I drive my automobile up on your lawn, you can file all kinds of civil actions to get my automobile removed from your lawn, but you're not free to go out and burn my automobile.

- Narr: (0:12) But if Man's Best Friend does wind up on the wrong side of the gun, it also means bad news for the one who pulled the trigger. Chances are he'll find the sting of a fine for animal cruelty to be pretty painful.
- R.Lynn: (0:08) The maximum penalties set by the state are up to six months in jail and up to a 300 dollar fine, either or both.
- Narr: (0:09) Now if the angry neighbor would have taken it out on the owner instead of the dog, the tables would be turned, and this time the owner would be facing some serious charges.
- R.Lynn: (0:17) You can charge the people criminally with animal trespass, you can sue them civilly for any damage done, plus ask for punitive damages in a civil suit because of the wear and tear on your nerves, and inconvenience, and this sort of thing.

Narr: (0:15) And believe it or not, a lot of pet owners do wind up in court. These days it's getting harder and harder to get away with letting your dog run loose. In the past all you needed was a good excuse, and Logan Animal Control Officer Larry Forsberg has heard them all.

Forsberg: (0:12) I mean I could probably write a book on excuses that I get from pet owners of why the dog was running loose. The most common excuse is "I didn't know the dog was running loose."

Narr: (0:10) Before the new ordinance regarding stray dogs was passed, an officer had to prove that the owner knew that his dog was loose. This wasn't so easy, since all the owner had to do was deny it. Larry Forsberg ...

Forsberg: (0:14) Well, at that time, the way the ordinance was stated, all they had to do was say, "Your Honour, I had no idea that my dog was out." Well, the verdict was not guilty because we could not prove that they knew it.



- Narr: (0:18) The new law states that no matter what his excuse is, the owner is responsible for letting his dog run at large. And when he receives a citation from the Animal Control Officer, the owner may be in for a big surprise. He'll find that it's the same as getting a speeding ticket, only it'll cost a lot more.
- Forsberg: (0:10) I would rather be picked up for speeding than I would for letting my dog run loose, because the fines are stiffer against animal owners.
- Narr: (0:08) And in addition to paying the fine for the original violation, the owner will also have to fork over a bundle to get his dog back.
- Forsberg: (0:38) If your dog is impounded it's \$15 plus \$2.50 per day that the dog is impounded. So if your dog stays there for the full five days, if it's a licensed dog, that's \$12.50 plus \$15. Plus, if the dog is not licensed, has not had a vaccination, you've got to pay

the impound fine, the \$2.50 per day charge, the license charge, the vaccination, and probably you'd be issued a citation so you'd have to go to court and pay another fine. So you know, you're looking at, how much? More than I'd want to pay.

Narr: (0:16) But no matter how strict and effective the laws have become, they still can't solve the problem of animal control by themselves.

On our next program, we'll take a look at the Cache Animal Protection League Services, along with some other ways in which Cache Valley is dealing with its stray and abused animals.

TOTAL:  
(5:53)

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Script IIISuggested Introduction

Annncr: On our last program we learned how to avoid costly legal suits by examining animal control and cruelty laws.

Today we'll find out how the Cache Animal Protection League helps meet the needs of pets and pet owners in the Valley.

SPEAKER      TIME

Narr:            (0:22)      It's no wonder so many dogs and cats in this country are homeless, and are being put to sleep everyday, when you consider that two to three thousand puppies and kittens are born every hour.

                 I'm Camille Cornish and I spoke with Cache Animal Protection League President Viva Lynn, who not only has found homes for dozens of these animals in Cache Valley, but who has also managed to adopt nine former stray dogs herself.

V.Lynn:        (0:12)      I will never take on that many (dogs) again because it is a tremendous responsibility. But I feel that when you take on the responsibility of an animal, that animal is your responsibility until it dies.

Narr: (0:28) Because so few people seem to share her philosophy, Mrs. Lynn felt it was necessary to establish a Humane Society in the Cache Valley, which she called the Cache Animal Protection League. That was six years ago. Since then it has become a very successful operation. Much of this success is due to the use of the professional answering service, which is available 24 hours a day. Through this service, the League can find new homes for most of the pets whose owners don't want or can no longer take care of them.

V.Lynn: (0:28) People call us when they feel they have an animal they can no longer keep, or, if they find a stray and they're willing to keep it in their home until we can advertise it and try to place it, then we will try to place it. People call us wanting animals and we try to match up the people who have animals with those who want animals. We're very often able to do this, but not always

Narr: (0:19) The League's answering service also acts as an excellent reference source for people who have questions about veterinary care or injured wildlife. The operators can provide people with names and phone numbers of the appropriate agencies. Often one of the League's Board members returns the call to give advice concerning things like breeding or training.

V.Lynn: (0:31) People often call us for advice. For example, We have people call and say "I have heard that it's good to allow a female dog or cat to have one litter of puppies or kittens because they're better adjusted." We try very hard to dispel that myth. We tell them that the veterinarians say "No this is absolutely not true." They have done research on this. And they're very thankful to us to know that because this is something that they've grown up with and they've always thought it was true.

Narr: (0:27) But Mrs. Lynn has learned that the majority of pet owners don't bother to ask for advice. They'd rather just let their pets breed, indiscriminately, without concern for the future of their offspring. This of course has led to the number one problem of animal overpopulation in the U.S. If people insist on having so many litters of kittens and puppies, Mrs. Lynn feels that the least they could do is find homes for them, through the League's answering service or even pay for a newspaper ad.

V.Lynn: (0:31) If they have a female and they allow her to have a litter of puppies, they could at least pay to put an ad in the paper. This is very effective. We have people call us and say "We cannot afford to put an ad in the paper." I think it costs \$3.25 to put a three line add for three days

in the paper and less in some of the smaller papers. If you cannot afford that, why on earth did you get the dog in the first place?

Narr: (0:13) Another alternative for owners who let their animals produce unwanted litters, is to pay to have them euthanized. If they can't afford that either, the animal control officer can usually take the animals and the city or county will pay the bill.

V.Lynn: (0:22) If you put an ad in the paper and you're not able to place the puppies that way, call us and if we have listings we'll give them to you. If you're still not able to place the puppies, call your animal control officer and see if he will take them. Or, the best thing is to pay yourself to have them put to sleep. That's the most humane thing.



Narr: (0:20) Euthanasia is considered a dirty word to a lot of pet owners. They think it's more humane to abandon the animals out in the country, even after they're faced with the fact that 90% of these animals wind up suffering and meet terrible deaths. Mrs. Lynn thinks that either the owners don't believe it or they'd rather live in a fantasy world and pretend that the statistics aren't true.

V.Lynn: (0:50) I would like to mention a study that was done in California where they tagged animals that were going to be put to sleep. People reported finding the animals by calling the number on the tag. The results of the study showed that 90% of the animals that they tagged and set loose met a very terrible end. Either they were killed by a car, they were picked up by a control officer and eventually put to sleep, they were poisoned,

they starved, they died of disease. Now that's nine out of every ten animals. This is documented research.

Narr: (0:13) Of course the best way to avoid the unpleasant and expensive task of putting puppies or kittens to sleep, is to spay or neuter the parents before they're able to breed. This can also be costly, but, it usually pays off in the long run.

V.Lynn: (0:15) People say it costs so much, but if you are going to take care of that animal, you're going to have it for ten to fifteen years. And when you figure the cost of a spay, which is \$40 to \$45, over a period of ten years, that's not much money.

Narr: (0:25) And what's more, those fees could be almost cut in half if Cache Valley had a spay/neuter clinic, at least once or twice a year. Mrs. Lynn, together with the other members of the Cache Animal Protection League, have been

trying to convince city and county officials that the Valley needs a spay/neuter clinic, as well as an animal shelter.

We'll listen to the arguments for and against this issue next time and find out about the progress that's been made so far to establish these services.

TOTAL:

(5:56)

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Script IVSuggested Introduction

AnnCR: Will a spay/neuter clinic really cut down on overpopulation of unwanted animals and strays in the Cache Valley? Why are local veterinarians opposed to opening a county or city spay/neuter clinic? How many unwanted animals are put to sleep each month in Logan?

We'll have the answers to these questions and more on today's program about animal control in the Cache Valley.

<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	
V.Lynn:	(0:12)	We talked to the veterinarians in the Valley and we're trying very hard to establish some kind of spay/neuter clinic. It's been very hard for us. The veterinarians do not want to cooperate in this.
R.Lynn:	(0:13)	I think that's a very short sighted thing there because, in the long run, the more animals that are spayed or neutered, the more strays you're going to have.
Narr:	(0:24)	Cutting down on the number of strays in Cache Valley is the main reason Cache Animal Protection League President Viva Lynn, and her husband, Ray Lynn have not yet given up the fight to establish a spay/neuter clinic in the Valley.  I'm Camille Cornish, and Viva Lynn told me that local veterinarians don't want a spay/neuter clinic, even if it does reduce the number of strays, because they're afraid they'll lose too much business.

- V.Lynn: (0:16) They have told us that they're against it because they feel that they're just surviving, just existing, particularly now in this time of inflation. They feel that this would take away from their business to the point where they would not be able to survive.
- Narr: (0:04) But other vets in bigger cities say they don't feel threatened by these clinics.
- V.Lynn: (0:08) The veterinarians in those areas where they have spay/neuter clinics say that it has not affected their business.
- Narr: (0:08) In fact these other cities prefer to support spay/neuter clinics because they actually help prevent the over-population of so many unwanted animals.
- V.Lynn: (0:14) Even in Los Angeles, the city and the county pay for neuter clinics because they have found that it cuts down on the number of strays tremendously. They have the statistics to prove this.

- Narr: (0:08) In other words, the fewer strays there are, the less the cities have to pay for someone to pick them up, for boarding, and for euthanizing the animals.
- V.Lynn: (0:20) Of course, what they need to realize is, if the statistics we're receiving from other places prove to be true here, they would offset the costs of the animal control officers, their boarding fees, and fees they pay to have these animals put to sleep, by spay neuter clinics, particularly in Logan.
- Narr: (0:22) It's not only a question of economics, though, but also of just and humane treatment of animals. Naturally the fewer strays there are, the fewer animals we have to put to sleep. Well, we already euthanize an overwhelming 13 to 14 million unwanted pets every year in this country. Animal Control Officer Larry Forsberg admits that Logan contributes its fair share to the national statistics.

Forsberg: (0:25) In the month of January we picked up 106 strays, and I think we euthanized 85 of those. In February it wasn't quite so bad. The euthanization and the reclaiming were equal, it was 50/50, which is really good.

Narr: (0:14) Most strays aren't that lucky though, because according to Forsberg, on the average, almost 70 percent of Logan's stray dogs are euthanized each month. It's even worse for cats and kittens, who are put to sleep at the rate of almost 100 percent every month.

Forsberg: (0:18) Out of 75 dogs on the average, picked up in a month, I would average right around 50 of those being euthanized. So the odds against the lifespan of a dog being impounded is not good.

Narr: (0:15) It looks like this great number of animals will continue to be put to death needlessly until people's rural attitudes towards owning pets



changes. Viva Lynn feels that many local people don't think it's worth spending money to alter an animal, if it's just a pet.

V.Lynn: (0:42) This is not a cosmopolitan area. People in general have a different attitude (here) than they do in a cosmopolitan area. You still have this idea among people who are no longer farmers but who are from farm families, that if an animal is not earning its keep, it's not worth having around. If it's not herding cattle or being a guard dog, if it's just a pet, then it's certainly not worth spending money on to have it neutered or vaccinated because there will always be another one along to replace that one if it should get to be too bothersome or have too many litters or get sick or whatever.

Narr: (0:10) The future of a spay/neuter clinic also depends to some degree on the growth of the Cache Valley in the next few years. Ray Lynn suggests that the Valley isn't crowded enough yet to warrant a clinic.

R.Lynn: (0:23) The only places where things like this make sense are where populations become crowded, because your freedom of action in everything, is directly proportional to the number of people you have to deal with. As people move closer together, then the need for animal control becomes greater.

Narr: (0:10) Even though he hates to see so many innocent animals put to sleep every month, Larry Forsberg also thinks it'll be awhile before the Cache Valley has its own spay/neuter clinic.

Forsberg: (0:15) When we become a thriving metropolis like Salt Lake City, Sandy, and Murray, then that would be the time.

We're approaching that, maybe ten to fifteen years from now, I don't know.

Narr: (0:06) Whether the goal is to build a spay/neuter clinic or an animal shelter, Viva Lynn believes it all boils down to money.

V.Lynn: (0:09) You know, everybody's feeling the money crunch, and I just feel that they're not about to start any program which requires more money at this time.

Narr: (0:08) Though people in the Valley may not be ready yet for a spay/neuter clinic, we'll find out next time why an animal shelter has a better chance of getting off the ground. Naturally, people often find it difficult to try something new, but it looks like an animal shelter would have enough economic and physical advantages to appeal to Cache Valley residents.

TIME:

(5:44)

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Script VSuggested Introduction

**Annncr:** Today we'll be listening to the last in our series of five programs dealing with animal control in Cache Valley. We'll learn why most of the local authorities are in favor of a county-wide animal shelter.

SPEAKER      TIME

V.Lynn:      (0:15)      I believe that we're now about 55,000 in population in the Valley. Most areas of this size have an animal shelter. It may be city owned or county owned, but it's very unique for an area of this size not to have a centrally located animal shelter. And I think it makes us look very bad.

Forsberg: (0:11)      I think finances has a lot to do with it, and maybe the fact that they're not quite convinced yet that animals is a problem.

Narr:      (0:36)      A county-wide animal shelter makes sense, now more than ever before, to Logan's Animal Control Officer Larry Forsberg and to Cache Animal Protection League President Viva Lynn. One good reason is the recent loss of half of the boarding facilities for stray animals. I'm Camille Cornish and Larry Forsberg told me that,

in the past, he was able to board strays at two local pet hospitals, Larsen's and Cache-Bridgerland. Now he's limited to boarding them regularly only at Larsen's Animal Hospital. It's not hard to imagine how crowded it can get, trying to squeeze in the regular clients' animals plus about 75 strays a month.

Forsberg: (0:18) There are times when we do run into problems. These two hospitals have their own clientele and they board people's dogs when they go on vacation. Sometimes they come to the point where they're just full. There's just no room at the Inn so to speak.

Narr: (0:15) Even when there is room, it isn't cheap. It costs Logan City two and a half dollars a day to board strays. That may not sound like much, but it adds up to an average expense of about a thousand dollars a month. Forsberg says it could probably cost much less with an animal shelter.

Forsberg: (0:10) I know Viva Lynn did a survey about a year or so ago. At that time they figured that they could board them for about fifty cents a day.

Narr: (0:07) If Cache County had its own animal shelter, people from all of Logan's neighboring cities wouldn't be flooding Forsberg with calls for help.

Forsberg: (0:18) I get calls from Bear Lake, I get calls from Preston, I get calls from places that do not have animal control, wanting to know if I can help them. It hurts me to say no, I can't help because I'm from Logan City, I can't go into the county because it's out of my jurisdiction.

Narr: (0:12) That's when these troubled pet owners from other cities become desperate and dump their animals in Logan. They know Forsberg will pick them up, but at the expense of the Logan taxpayers. Of course it's the animals who wind up suffering the most.

Forsberg: (0:25) You know, they say that Logan's got a good animal control program and if I just let this dog go in the city, he'll get it. Well, sure I'll get it, but do you know what the dog looks like when I finally pick it up? It would be a lot more humane for them to go out and shoot it. I don't advocate that, you know, I think it's cruel. But then to let it starve to death it would be a lot more humane to do that.

Narr: (0:08) Without a county-wide shelter, it can often be a hassle to locate a lost animal. In fact County Humane Officer Ray Lynn says it can be downright complicated.

R.Lynn: (0:22) We do have a problem with the fact that a person may lose a dog in Nibley and it gets picked up in Hyrum. Hyrum has a pound but they also do some boarding at Larson's and you lost your dog in Nibley, not in Hyrum, it could have gone to Millville just as well. And now, because they have



a lot of separate little pounds around, it's much more difficult to locate your animal.

Narr: (0:05) So, it's obvious to Ray Lynn why a centrally located animal shelter would be superior.

R.Lynn: (0:14) Well, simply because you'd have one central place to advertise dogs. People that lose an animal would know specifically where to go to locate their animals.

Forsberg: (0:15) If we had a county-wide shelter, people would know where to call. They wouldn't spend all day trying to locate an animal. They'd have one central place to call and they could come up with their answer right there.

Narr: (0:06) The first step towards building an animal shelter, says Viva Lynn, is to find some land.

V.Lynn: (0:10) If we could get the land, I feel that we could get the materials and services donated to build the shelter. So I think the big problem is getting the land.

Narr: (0:05) Though it may not be easy to come up with free land and labor, the biggest obstacle could be ...

Forsberg: (0:08) People. The citizens have to make their wants known. If this is what they want, they have to make their wants known. The County Commission isn't going to act on itself.

Narr: (0:04) Forsberg also feels that, once people become organized, the next logical move is to get local political support.

Forsberg: (0:06) Probably the place to start right now for anybody would be to go to their local elected officials.

Smith: (0:04) We would have to have a feel from the surrounding communities.

Narr: (0:07) And that's straight from the horse's mouth. County Commissioner Dean Smith already claims to be in favor of a county-wide animal shelter.

Smith: (0:15) Yes, I think that in the case of Cache County, I think probably it would be cheaper to have one centrally located and have all the surrounding communities participate. Yes, I think this would be the proper way to go.

Narr: (0:20) But before he and the other County Commissioners could actually support a proposal to build a shelter, Smith says concerned citizens would first have to come up with researched facts and figures to prove their case. Considering the extent to which Cache Valley's grown in recent years, Smith feels that it won't be long before a county funded animal shelter finds its way into Cache Valley.

Smith: (0:27) Yes, I think Cache County is certainly growing according to the last population figures. We're one of the counties that had grown substantially. When you have growth, there are many things that you have

to provide for. This may be one of the areas that will have to be looked into, and eventually, yes it could be that we'll have to provide for one.

TOTAL:

(5:43)

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