

Good animal care costs

Having Lincoln police handle complaints about barking dogs and stray dogs is more efficient than having the Humane Society handle them, said Kurt Sonderegger, a society trustee.

The Humane Society had handled complaints but stopped picking up stray and dead dogs Sept. 10 when its contract with the city was cancelled. It was cancelled because the Society had accumulated an \$8,000 deficit in the first eight months of 1976, Sonderegger said.

"The city decided they could do a better job and do it cheaper," Sonderegger said. The deficit at the Humane Society began when the city cut the license fee in half. Sonderegger said that license fees were the main source of income for the society.

Police handle complaints

The city's own service will be in full operation by Jan. 1. In the meantime, the police are handling complaints.

The city's animal control service, a part of the City-County Health Dept., has one truck that is used to pick up dead animals and confined strays, said Cathy Mindt, one of three animal control officers.

Cathy Mindt, animal control officer, said confined strays are animals that already have been caught and are being held by somebody. She said the city will not have the equipment to chase strays until Jan. 1.

Dead dogs picked up by the city are held for 24 hours, Mindt said. If the dog has tags, the owner is contacted, but if not the dogs are taken to the sanitary landfill.

Humane treatment promoted

The Humane Society's main job, according to

Sonderegger, is to promote the humane treatment of animals. He said they are concerned about what the city does with the dead animals.

"We are dead set against dumping animal carcasses with the rest of the garbage," Sonderegger said. He also said that a number of Lincoln veterinarians are up in arms about it.

Dennis Grams, assistant chief of environmental health, said the city disposes of the animals that way because it is the cheapest way. He said that Omaha has disposed of animals in landfills and it has caused no health problem.

The Humane Society still boards animals, handles adoptions, puts animals to sleep and cremates or buries these animals, Sonderegger said. Persons still can bring unwanted animals to the Humane Society and it will try to find homes for them.

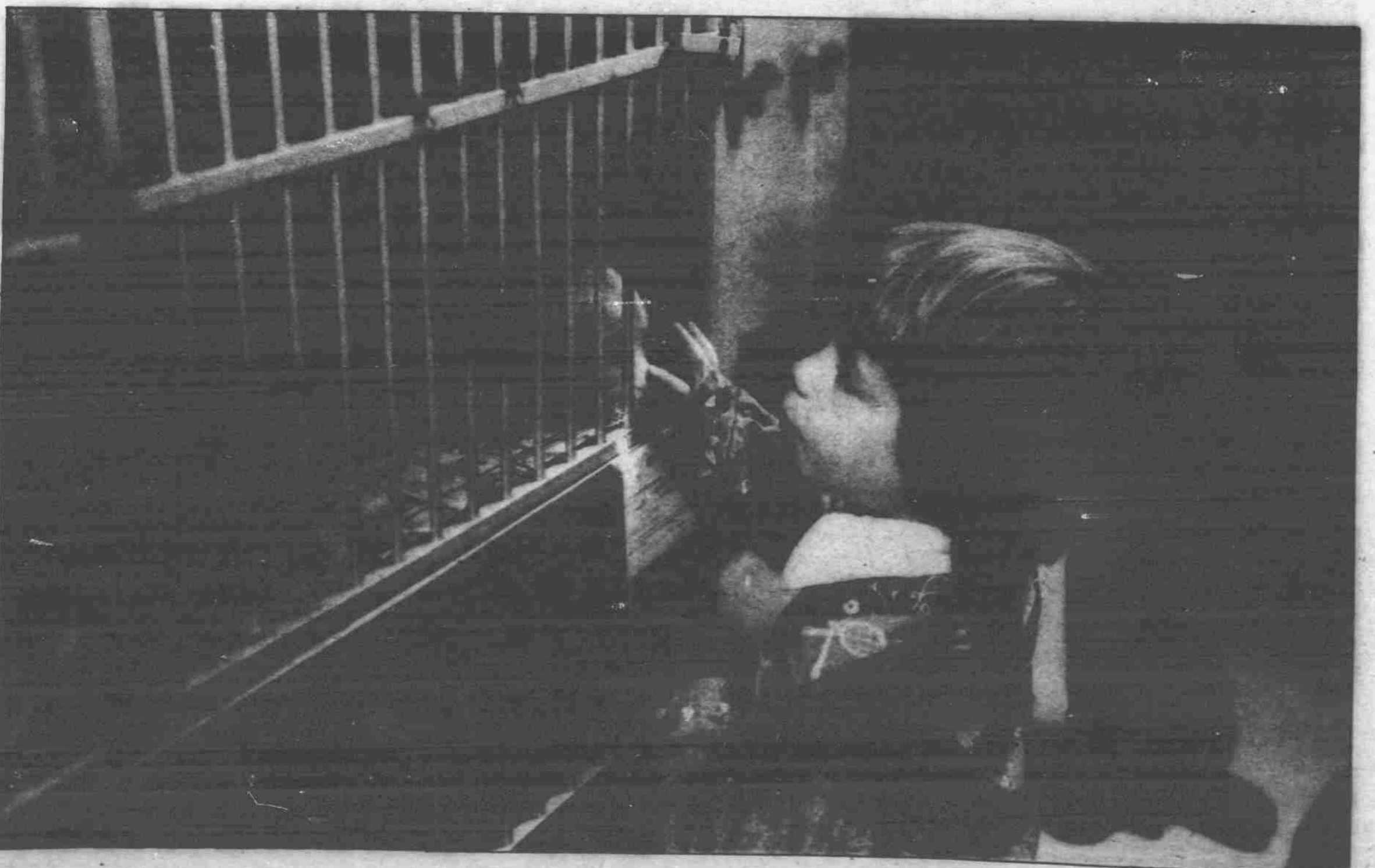
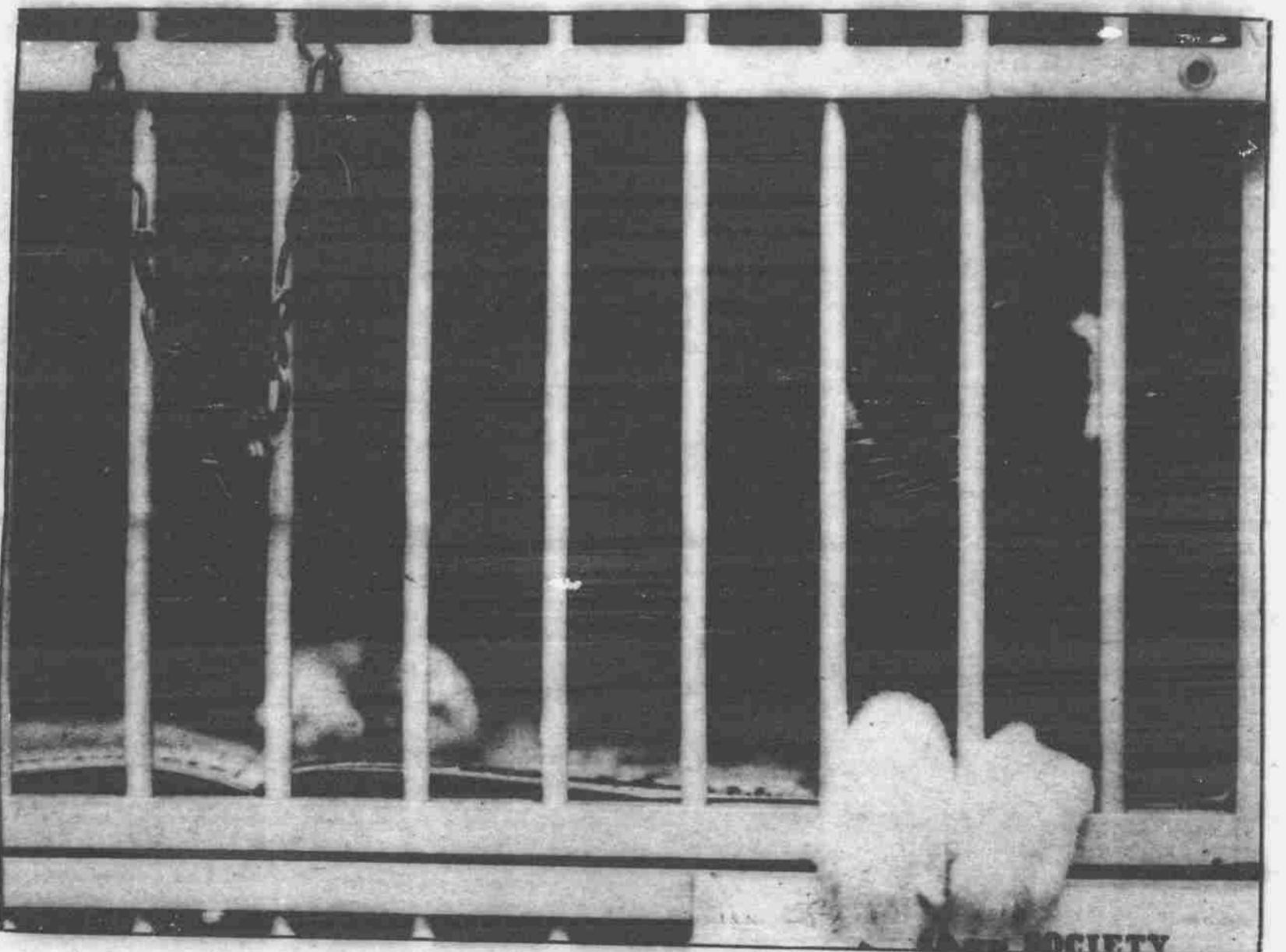
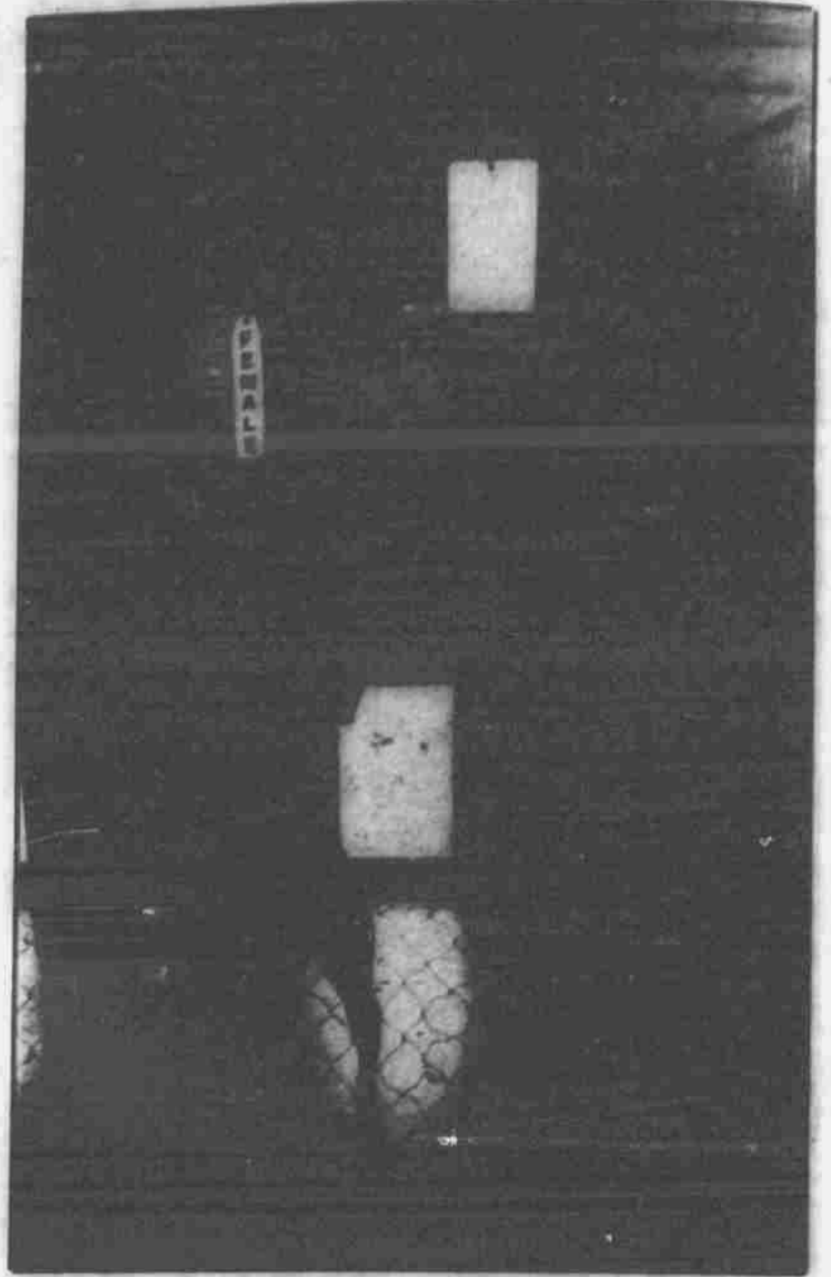
But the Society can board them for only a limited time because of the cost. The animals have to be destroyed if they are not claimed, he said. He added that the Humane Society destroys 500 to 600 animals a month.

Dogs should be neutered

This problem would be eliminated if people would get their dogs neutered, Sonderegger said. The Humane Society doesn't like to destroy the animals, it just can't afford to take care of them, he explained.

The city is working with the Humane Society to try to reach an agreement which would allow the city to board the stray animals at the Humane Society.

Grams said the city would pay the society to board stray animals it picks up, and to perform euthanasia on these animals if the owners can't be found.



Photographs by Ted Kirk
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