The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) was founded in Great Britain in 1824. In 1829, New York passed a law to prohibit cruelty to large animals. The American Humane Association (AHA) was founded for the prevention of cruelty to children and animals in 1877. Henry Bergh and Elbridge Gerry successfully prosecuted a child cruelty case under animal cruelty statutes (The “Mary Ellen” case) in 1874. There were no laws protecting children at this time. Henry Bergh founded the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in 1866. Richard “Humanity” Martin was its sponsor. The Nebraska Humane Society (NHS) was founded on August 7, 1875 and is the fifth oldest shelter in the United States. Originally caring for animals and children and located at the Central Police Headquarters downtown. James Savage was the first president of NHS. The Animal Welfare Act of 1966 is a comprehensive act authored to provide humane treatment for animals across the spectrum, from pet animals to those being raised for research purposes and those being sold as commercial property. The act covered transportation, treatment and care. Child Protective Services was formed and NHS was left to care for animals only. Child abuse laws were passed in Nebraska in 1977. Beth Phelps, Director of NHS, (1972-1977) established a spay program for all female animals adopted out. Beth Phelps, Director of NHS, (1972-1977) established a spay program for all female animals adopted out. 2006 82,000 Dogs and Cats were licensed in Omaha by NHS.