8,000 animals annually die in gas chamber

DEMOCRATS: VOTE

John B Culbertson
Nick Zeigler
August 29

A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Prices higher now puppies $6 and up

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adoption. If the animal is suffering from some
disease, it is usually put to sleep by the vet or
returned to the shelter and the gas chamber. If
the animal is healthy, the vet recommends any
shots which may be appropriate. All dogs at the
shelter are given rabies shots before they are
adopted.
The SPCA's brochure reports that the shelter
"found homes for about 2,000 animals last
year." There is an adoption fee, which varies
with the type and breed of animal.
Puppies are $10 and up, large dogs go for $18
and up, and kittens are $6 and up, with two
going for $10.
Those who adopt animals are given no
guarantee that the animals will live. Their
money cannot be refunded, although any
shelter animal which dies within 30 days after
its adoption can be replaced free of charge.
"We have raised our prices lately," Greenlee
said. "We think this helps us find better homes
for our animals."
People who bring unwanted animals to the
shelter are asked to donate money to help in
feeding the animals. The donation is not
required, however, and Hoffman said that most
did not donate.
Three people brought dogs to the shelter
during a 30-minute period Monday. None

"We don't try to force people to donate,"
Greenlee said. "If we did, they would take their
animals back up the road and let them out on
the street. We'd just have to contend with them
later."
The SPCA also handles cruelty and injury
calls. If an animal is injured and lying in the
road, the SPCA usually sends someone to check
on the situation, according to Greenlee.
"We really provide a service for the city and
the county," she said. "If we were not in
business, they would have to quadruple their
staffs to handle all the animals. In effect, we're
working for the city and county."
The shelter is located at 90 Calhoun Street at
the end of a twisting, bumpy dirt road. There
are no immediate plans to build a new shelter.
"I think the main function of a humane
organization should be to educate the people on
such things as animal control," Greenlee said.
"More people are getting into this as we talk
about it more. It's changing from what once
was a small group into a lot of people becoming
aware of how bad the situation is."
A lot of dogs and cats already know how bad
the situation is. It seems about time some
people found out.