



The ARK

Fall 2002

Virginia Federation of Humane Societies

A Dream Becomes Reality

Twenty years ago the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies had a dream of ensuring that every unwanted or stray animal would have a safe haven to go to. At the time, there were few municipal pounds and fewer animal shelters. Through the efforts of Liz Sills and Walt Lane, a plan was developed and accepted by the General Assembly to require every locality to build and maintain a pound to provide for the animals.

Most counties and cities built facilities, but at least 25 did nothing. Harry Bozen, a Federation attorney, brought charges against each locality and was successful in each case. Thus, the other 25 pounds were built. Since that time, many localities have made progressive steps to upgrade facilities and vehicles, educate animal control officers, and implement policies and procedures to deal effectively with the stray and unwanted population of animals.

Unfortunately, some localities did not keep their facilities, vehicles and animal control training up to standard. Again, with the leadership of the Federation, a

plan was devised to give the Department of Agriculture the ability to impose civil penalties against municipalities that were out of compliance. That same provision also applied to animal shelters.

During the period that the municipalities and shelters were given to make needed alterations and improvements to their facilities and their programs the Federation joined forces with The Humane Society of the United States to work with localities and organizations that had compliance issues. The work was featured recently in the HSUS publication *Animal Sheltering*. The article references the efforts of Kate Pullen, HSUS and Teresa Dockery, VFHS. "...More than a year later, she (Pullen) and Dockery are providing guidance on training, retrofitting, and basic operation, working with both local animal caretakers and county administrators to improve the status of animals in Virginia. A new law levies fines against facilities that don't comply with minimum standards set by the state; while the law provides powerful backup in situations where

local officials are unwilling to budge, Pullen and Dockery would rather see enforcement as a last resort so that communities can spend what little money they have on improvements."

Innovative working relationships to build regional facilities have been developed in several areas of the Commonwealth.

Animal welfare organizations are assisting with capital building campaigns and, for the first time, Federal programs are looking at funding portions of municipal pounds. Pullen and Dockery also have been successful in securing private foundation funding to help with projects such as adding rooms for quarantine, cats housing and injectable euthanasia.

Many areas have completed their facilities. These include Spotsylvania County, Warren County, Loudoun Animal Care and Control, Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Shenandoah County and the City of Salem. A few localities in the process of building new facilities will have them completed in the spring of 2003. This progress undoubtedly will set Virginia apart from other states, as there are some states that do not mandate municipal facilities and others that struggle with compliance issues.



Compliance issues ranged from minor improvements to the need to replace entire facilities.

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Drs. Sims and Whiting Retire

Within the next couple of months Dr. William Sims, State Veterinarian and Dr. Robert Whiting, Program Manager, both with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, will retire. Dr. Sims has played a significant role in the administration's involvement in animal welfare. While giving credit to Liz Sills, past president of the Federation, with his having been selected State Veterinarian Liz credits him with raising the awareness of the importance of animal welfare within the administration. In 1999, then co-presidents Teresa Dockery and Anne

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A Legacy of Love

The Virginia Federation of Humane Societies has been the recipient of two generous gifts this year. In January the Federation received a bequest from the estate of Mary A. Parks. Mrs. Parks had been closely involved with the SPCA of Eastern Shore and was a faithful supporter of the Federation.

In May the Federation received a bequest from the estate of Walter G. Lane. "Walt", as he was known to his friends, worked tirelessly on behalf of the well being of animals in our Commonwealth.

The Federation is indebted to these individuals for this legacy of their love for animals. It is gratifying to receive this acknowledgement of their confidence in the ongoing efforts of our organization to uphold and improve the standards of care for animals.

A bequest is an eloquent yet beneficial means of perpetuating one's appreciation of the many ways that animals can enhance the quality of life through their companionship, devotion, and service. It also is a means of ensuring that efforts to oversee the protection of their rights to humane care and treatment will continue to be supported.

When planning your estate please consider the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies in making provisions in your will. Your gift will enable the love you have shared with animals in your lifetime become a legacy of care that will live on in your memory.



Teresa Dockery presented the 1999 Bravo Award to Dr. Sims.

Animals Helped in Disasters

During the first few days of May excessive amounts of rain drenched West Virginia and Southwest Virginia. The communities of Welch, West Virginia, and Hurley, Virginia, in Buchanan County were virtually washed away. Many homes and some lives were lost. As the floodwaters raged through these communities the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies was busy monitoring the situation and working to provide assistance. The Humane Society of the United States sent a crew into West Virginia where a few animals were rescued and treated. Animal control and county officials were on the scene in Hurley and in constant contact with the Federation. Individuals who are specially trained in rescue techniques and those that could offer resources were located and put on stand-by.

Many of the citizens in Hurley had been through floods previously so they were prepared and took their animals with them when they evacuated. When the

floodwaters receded approximately 200 homes were lost. Because the floodwaters came so quickly no doubt some animals perished in the flood.

As the citizens of Hurley began returning to what was left of their homes, or to make shift homes the Buchanan County Humane Society was there, offering dog houses and pet food. It was quickly realized that the 40 houses the humane society purchased would not begin to service the need. The Buchanan County Humane Society contacted the Federation and asked for help. Within days the funds were available for an additional 96 houses thanks to donations by HSUS (60 houses), ASPCA (25 houses) and PETA (10 houses). Henrico Humane Society from the Richmond area donated 125 collars and leashes. Individuals also donated funds that were used for food bowls and medical supplies. Buchanan County's animal control officers distributed the houses and other supplies to the Hurley pet owners.

In mid-May the Humane Society of Calvert County in Sunderland, MD contacted the Federation requesting Virginia's help. The humane society was overwhelmed with animals as a result of the tornadoes in La Plata. Sally Lounsbury at the humane society sends her sincere appreciation to Virginia. As she began receiving calls and e-mails she wrote "It just seemed like every time we thought it couldn't get worse, it did, but this is really going to help make the turnaround. I came in tonight and had so many responses, phone messages and e-mails. Virginia has been great. This is going so well!"

The Federation applauds those who joined us in helping with these disasters and those who were willing to help if needed. We are proud of the generosity and support that Virginia's animal welfare community shows in an emergency situation.

Animal Sheltering Training Goes High Tech

Humane Society University understands it's not always easy or affordable to leave the shelter for a few days of professional development. So, HSU is bringing management training directly to animal care and control professionals via the Internet. HSU has launched a new line of Leadership Development courses available entirely online. Courses include Basic Supervision Skills, Advanced Communications Strategies, and Social Marketing. In 2003, there are plans to add Strategic Planning, Fundraising, and Mentoring, among others. Prior computer experience is not required. These courses run six weeks and you log on each week when you have the time. Lectures can be printed and read anywhere—at the hair dresser, on the bus, in your jammies. Each week you'll engage in conversations with your fellow students via a cyberspace discussion board.

HSU is also developing short, self-paced courses without instructors—to give you

easy access to information to help you do your jobs better. Topics will range from kennel sanitation to equine body condition scoring to management topics.

Online Courses currently enrolling:

Advanced Communication Strategies

January 19–February 28, 2003

Practical Publicity, Print and Partnerships

January 26–March 16, 2003

Strategic Planning for Success

March 9–April 19, 2003

For more information, visit

www.HumaneSocietyU.org or call

Valerie Sheppard at 301-548-7713.

Suggestions on online course topics are

welcome!

Questions about Humane Society

University events? Contact

jlsnyder@hsus.org or visit

www.HumaneSocietyU.org

National Cruelty Investigations School in Partnership with the Law Enforcement Training Institute

Learn a proven and systematic approach

to animal cruelty investigations. Five-day trainings nationwide. See

www.HumaneSocietyU.org for details

Upcoming Events

October 23–25 **Virginia Animal Control Association Conference**,

Virginia Beach, VA

Contact Kathy Strouse, 757-382-8084,

katacb@yahoo.com

November 8–10 **Beastie Bazaar Animal Holiday Fundraiser** benefitting VFHS,

Upperville, VA

www.BeastieBazaar.org

March 27–29 **Virginia Federation of Humane Societies Conference 2003**,

Richmond, VA

Contact Peggy Allen, 540-879-3384,

henrygallen@email.msn.com

For information about the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, visit our Web site at www.vfhs.org.

2003 VFHS Conference Summary

On a blustery spring day, the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies kicked off its 2002 annual conference. Sponsored this year by ASPCA National Shelter Outreach, HSUS, The Pet Savers Foundation, Petsmart Charities and Pfizer Animal Health, the March 22-23 meeting, held at the Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center in Staunton, Virginia, was deemed by many the “best ever!”

With more than 200 persons in attendance, Federation President **Peggy Allen** kicked off the conference with a helpful and timely plenary address on *Community Planning for Animals in Disasters*. Her tips, handouts and visual aids were useful to all participants. Whether they feared fire, flood, hurricane or act of terrorism, all left the meeting equipped to prepare for whatever might come next.

Participants spent much of the two days attending a variety of educational—and often entertaining — workshops on a variety of animal-related topics.

Some of the best-attended programs at the conference involved the Link between animal and human violence. In her presentation *Child Maltreatment and Animal Cruelty*, **Linda Struck** of the Virginia Department of Social Services provided graphic examples of child

abuse that animal control officers and humane investigators should watch for when conducting animal cruelty investigations. **Ann Gearhart** of the Snyder Foundation for Animals also focused on the Link in her presentation entitled *Preventing Violence Through Collaboration*. This discussion focused on ways officers and investigators can present animal cruelty as not simply an



Conference participants enjoy a session presented by Tammy Kirkpatrick of the Pet Savers Foundation.

animal welfare issue but as a broader human welfare issue.

Always a popular presenter, **Tammy Kirkpatrick** of the Pet Savers Foundation also drew large audiences—and kept them laughing — through her serious yet entertaining presentations. In a program entitled *No Kill Doesn't Mean No Euthanasia*, Tammy tackled the difficult no-kill topic and discussed the standards that humane societies must set to determine an animal's adoptability. In her presentation on *Adoption Profiling: Make It Positive and Make It Last*, Tammy focused on another controversial subject and used humor to explain why organizations need to find rational methods to make adoptions work for both the animals and the people involved.

Two excellent presentations focused on animal handling. **Kate Pullen** of HSUS gave a primer on felines in her session, *Cats Are Not Just Small Dogs*.

Participants appreciated Kate's tips and handouts, as well as her generous giveaways, including cages and nets. **Laura Moreau** of Chesapeake Animal Control provided an intermediate-level course for animal care and control staff in her session on *Guidelines for Animal Assessment*. Laura explained how to use body language, breed and temperament to determine an animal's adoptability.

Appropriate methods for handling people were also discussed in conference seminars. **Anne Anderson** of Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA and **Deborah Caywood** of Augusta County SPCA provided humorous and useful personnel management tips in their presentation *Maintaining Staff Morale*, while Kate Pullen switched topics from cats to co-workers in her session on *People Care*.

Laws and law enforcement were hot topics at the Conference as well. Laura Moreau's session on *Basics of Cruelty Investigations* provided an excellent overview of Virginia's laws, how to understand them and the provisions that officers and investigators can best use to protect animals. **Teresa Dockery** of the Federation provided a *Legislative Update* in which she described the vast amount of animal-related legislation that the General Assembly acted on during



Conference attendees received a packet of materials when they checked in at the registration table.



Kate Pullen of the Humane Society of the United States makes a point during one of her presentations.

its 2002 session and, especially, the passage of SB 260.

Rounding out the conference program were a helpful session on *Community Based Animal Control* presented by **Laura Lanza** of ASPCA—National Shelter Outreach, information from Ann Gearhart about the broad impact of humane education in her presentation, *Humane, Environmental and Character Education*, and, always useful to cash-strapped humane societies, a session on *How to Write a Winning Grant Application*, offered by **Carol Moulton** of PETsMART Charities.

2002 Conference attendees worked hard, but also played hard, thanks to VACA ,

which hosted a social hour on Friday evening. Through the generosity of the Conference sponsors, nearly everyone in attendance left with a coveted door prize.

Vendor booths remained open throughout the conference as well, and provided attendees with a wealth of information on topics ranging from disaster planning to shelter architecture.

Plans are already underway for the Federation's 2003 conference, which will be held in Richmond, Virginia. Watch your mail for your fall members packet and more information. We'll hope to see you there!



Mark Kumpf's skills as a Master of Ceremonies added to the fun at the Conference reception.

Dawn Caldwell Receives the 2002 Bravo Award

During the conference luncheon, it was announced that Dawn Caldwell was the recipient of the 2002 Bravo Award. The award was made in recognition of Dawn's years of service as Treasurer of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies.

Plaques were awarded to Deborah Caywood and Donald Wells in appreciation of their serving as VFHS Executive Committee members for three terms and their contribution to the Federation.

Culpeper County Humane Society, Floyd County Humane Society, and Patrick Animal Welfare Society received VFHS Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding work in the area of animal welfare. Particular recognition was given to these organizations for their outstanding support of their county facilities.



Leon Hardy of Patrick Animal Welfare Society (left) and Janet Bennett of Culpeper County Humane Society (right) accept VFHS Certificates of Appreciation for their organizations from Federation President Peggy Allen.



Lynn Chipkin accepted a VFHS Certificate of Appreciation for Floyd County Humane Society.

Mark your Calendar!

**Virginia Federation
of Humane Societies**

2003 Conference

March 27, 28 and 29, 2003

**Holiday Inn Central
Richmond, Virginia**

**More information is coming in
your fall Member's Packet**

2002 General Assembly Session— Animal Legislation

Passed

Senate Bill 306

Senator Edwards

House Bill 707

Delegate Armstrong

This bill provides that it is a Class 6 felony to cause the death of a dog or cat by willfully and maliciously torturing or inflicting inhumane injury or pain or cruelly beating, maiming or mutilating such animal. Amends 3.1-796.122.

House Bill 1012 (Delegate Scott) was identical to House Bill 707 so it was incorporated into House Bill 707.

Senate Bill 235

Senator Hanger

Section L is removed from 3.1-796.115 that states that adequate care shall only apply to companion animals. This provision has forced judges to give animals back to those who starve them. This bill also adds the federal definition of soring of horses, and includes the soring of horses as cruelty to animals.

Amends section 3.1-796.66, 3.1-796.115 and 3.1-796.122.

House Bill 773

Delegate Watts

Animal control officers are required to receive training in the recognition of child abuse and neglect and information on how complaints may be filed.

Amends 3.1-796.104:1

Senate Bill 260

Senator Watkins

Definitions of “companion animal rescue agency” and “foster home,” are added and requirements for operating companion animal rescue agencies and foster homes are established. The bill also sets out separate registration requirements for companion animal rescue agencies and pounds and animal shelters that use foster homes.

Companion animal rescue agencies must self-certify and inspect any foster homes used prior to placing an animal in the home to determine if the home meets the basic owner standards of care as set out in § 3.1-796.68 plus additional requirements. The self-certification and

inspection reports are to be filed with the State Veterinarian. Companion animal rescue agencies must register with the Department annually and foster homes must self-certify twice a year that they are continuing to meet the basic owner standards of care with the companion animal rescue agency.

Pounds and animal shelters that use foster homes to keep animals accepted by the pound or shelter must inspect those foster homes prior to placing an animal.

The bill also prohibits any person who has ever been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment from adopting an animal from, or working for or operating, any humane society, animal shelter, companion animal rescue agency or foster home.

Also, this bill prohibits any person who has ever been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment from being on the board of directors of a pound or animal shelter. Animal shelters must meet the requirements specified in the code but not the pound regulations.

Amends 3.1-796.66, 3.1-796.67:2, 3.1-796.68, 3.1-796.73, 3.1-796.96, 3.1-796.96:2, 3.1-796.126:7 and adds sections 3.1-796.96:3, 3.1-796.96:4 and 3.1-796.96:5

House Bill 941

Delegate Morgan

Senate Bill 133

Senator Stolle

This bill delays the effective date of the penalty provisions for animal pounds and shelters that are violating regulations adopted by the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services from January 1, 2002, to January 1, 2003. This bill contains a retroactive clause and an emergency enactment provision.

Amends 3.1-796.96 and 3.1-796.120.

Senate Bill 417

Senator Rerras

House Bill 501

Delegate Albo

The power to enforce laws relating to animal pounds and shelters is expanded by authorizing the Commissioner of the

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to bring an action to enjoin violations of the Animal Control Law or the regulations pursuant thereto. The Commissioner may request the Attorney General to bring such an action. Currently, the Commissioner may request only an action for civil penalties for violations.

Amends 3.1-796.96, 3.1-796.96:2 and 3.1-796.120.

House Bill 1357

Delegate O’Bannon

A definition of animal “dumping” is added to animal welfare laws. To “dump” means to knowingly desert, forsake or absolutely give up any dog, cat or other companion animal in any public place including the right-of-way of any public highway, road or street or on the property of another. Amends 3.1-796.66, 3.1-796.73 and 3.1-796.122.

To obtain a copy of the bills call 804-786-6984 or go to

<http://legis.state.va.us>

Reporting Dead Birds

You can help state officials monitor for West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne viruses by reporting all dead birds to your local health department. (For a list of local health departments go to www.vdh.state.va.us/lhd/O2.htm)

The health department will decide whether to have the bird submitted for laboratory testing. Only selected crows, blue jays and raptors (hawks, falcons or owls) will be tested, because they are the best early signs of virus activity in an area.

Reporting dead birds immediately is essential, since testing must be conducted within 24 hours of death. Sunken eyes and the presence of fly larvae (maggots) are good indicators that the bird has been dead too long.

The health department may advise you to collect and preserve the bird. Wear gloves or use a plastic bag turned inside out to pick up the bird. Place the bird in two plastic bags, tying each bag shut. Place the double-bagged bird in a sturdy, waterproof container with freezer-packs.

2002–2003 Law Book Order Form

Cost:

\$10.00 per copy,
including postage

**Make Check Payable
to VFHS**

Order now
while they last!

Mail to:

Teresa Dockery
24237 Mock Knob Road
Abington, VA 24211

Questions:

Phone: 423-968-9136
Email: dockery@naxs.net

This publication is a must for animal welfare organizations, humane investigators, animal control officers, and others working in the field of animal welfare. Conveniently sized to fit in a pocket or purse, it includes the Virginia Comprehensive Animal Laws, other Code sections that pertain to animals, and the 2002 amendments to the Code.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone or e-mail: _____

Number of copies: _____ **Amount enclosed:** _____



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You're Invited!

Many of you already are familiar with the Annual Holiday Party for Animals held at Ayrshire Farm in Upperville, VA. Activities include hayrides, storytelling, photos with farm animals, a bake sale, and treats and drinks. There also is a raffle and silent auction, and the donation trailer is available for contributions of pet food and supplies that are distributed to sheltered homeless animals.

For the first time last year, the Holiday Party included *The Beastie Bazaar*, a special selection of "shops" featuring handcrafted jewelry, artwork, gifts, books and antiques, all with animal themes. *The Beastie Bazaar* promises to be an even bigger part of this year's gala event.

In welcoming the holiday season the Holiday Party for Animals will be held the weekend of November 8, 9, and 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The

Virginia Federation of Humane Societies is proud to announce that it has been designated the beneficiary of this celebration for the animals this year. Proceeds from the event will go toward Federation projects and programs.

We hope you will make plans to attend this fun-filled event. You will have an opportunity for unique gift selections for your animal loving friends and family members, and your demonstration of support will benefit the Federation.

Ayrshire Farm is located at 21846 Trappe Road, Upperville, VA. Heading west on Highway 50 from the northern Virginia area go through Upperville and take the first right onto Trappe Road. From the Winchester area follow Highway 50 East. Just before entering the town of Upperville turn left onto Trappe Road.

Continue on Trappe Road for 1.5 miles. The driveway to Ayrshire Farm is on the right and is designated with the Ayrshire coat of arms sign. Follow the signs along the driveway that will provide parking directions.

We are looking forward to seeing you there! If for some reason you are unable to attend and would like to contribute to this worthy cause you may send your donation, payable to the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, to Anne Anderson, Treasurer, 1121-D Blue Ridge Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Be sure to specify "Beastie Bazaar" on the memo line of your check.

For additional information, check out the Beastie Bazaar Web site at www.BeastieBazaar.org.