



The ARK

Summer 2004

Virginia Federation of Humane Societies

45 Years: Looking Back, Planning Ahead

Certain occasions, such as birthdays, anniversaries, or the beginning of a new year, are opportune times to reflect on what has been accomplished and to determine what opportunities lie ahead. The 2004 Annual Conference of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies held in March was a celebration of 45 years of service to animal welfare in Virginia. However, it was by no means an invitation for the Federation to rest on its laurels!

The Virginia Federation of Humane Societies was organized in March, 1959, by Pearl Rainwater Twyne, a woman of great vision and purpose. Born in Boise, Idaho, she moved to the Washington, DC area to work for the Department of Agriculture. In 1944 she helped to establish the Arlington Animal Welfare League and served as its president until 1967. She also helped to establish the Humane Society of Fairfax County and the American Horse Protection Association.

Mrs. Twyne's experience with animal welfare organizations in the northern

Virginia area inspired her to organize a statewide organization to serve as an umbrella for animal-related agencies to work together toward common goals. Initially involving the northern Virginia and Tidewater areas, the Federation has expanded to encompass most areas of the State. The general objectives that were developed in the organization of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies in 1959 are just as valid today as they were then. These include:

- To act as an advisor to new societies formed in the state of Virginia for the purpose of fostering humane treatment of animals and to prevent cruelty to animals;
- To take action under the existing laws of the state of Virginia to prevent cruelty to animals;
- To study existing or proposed laws for the protection of animals and the prevention of cruelty to animals, for purposes of informing and educating the membership;
- To alert member societies and the general public to animal welfare conditions

within the Commonwealth and to foster humane attitudes through education and public relations activities with public officials and private citizens of Virginia;

- To assist, by every legitimate means, any member society with solving a specific animal welfare problem when possible and practical;
- To strengthen small societies by combining the effort of all member societies toward the goal of constant improvement in the field of animal welfare;
- To work toward elimination of cruelty to animals within the state of Virginia; The Virginia Federation of Humane Societies has been a leader of the animal welfare movement in Virginia and is directly responsible for many of the animal protection laws and their enforcement. Over the course of its development the Federation is credited with significant accomplishments that have benefited the quality of life for animals not only in Virginia but also throughout the nation. The Federation:
 - Ensured the passage of the Virginia Animal Welfare Act in 1977;
 - Established a Humane Investigator Course, administered by the office of the State Veterinarian;
 - Influenced the passage of mandatory rules and regulations for city and county pounds;
 - Regularly alerted and educated members of the General Assembly and public to problems relating to animal protection;
 - Assisted in the establishment of Action 81, a Virginia based organization that monitored and exposed pet theft nationwide;



The VFHS Spay Virginia project has five regional programs and is developing plans for programs in seven additional regions. The Central Region utilizes a customized van to shuttle animals to local low-cost spay/neuter clinics.

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

45 Years: Looking Back, Planning Ahead (continued)

- Assisted member organizations in planning new shelters and renovating existing shelter to maintain compliance with the State Code;
- Assisted member organizations in developing spay and neuter programs, fund-raising projects, shelter operation and volunteer programs;
- Worked to improve the Comprehensive Animal Laws and to defeat legislation that adversely affected animal welfare;
- Developed a model disaster preparedness plan for animal welfare organizations and animal control agencies;
- Provided volunteers to serve on regional committees for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries;
- Provided information and assistance to national, state, and local organizations and agencies throughout the United States;
- Provided speakers for the Federation's annual conferences and conferences held by other organizations;

- Ensured that localities were responsible for Animal Control Officers receiving basic training and continuing education;
- Worked with state agencies, animal control departments and other organizations to ensure animal protection and further animal welfare education;
- Produced newsletters and provided educational materials to member organizations and others who requested assistance.

Several years ago the Federation embarked on an aggressive outreach program to address the needs of private and municipal shelters to meet the standards of compliance with the regulations and State Code mandated by the Virginia General Assembly. This was accomplished with the support of The Humane Society of the United States. Assistance included the assessment of individual facilities with recommendations for structural modifications and improvements in animal placement and operating procedures. In some cases funding was

procured to purchase needed equipment or to provide materials and supplies for the training of shelter personnel.

A current project of the Federation is Spay Virginia, which was created to develop resources for spaying and neutering animals of low-income pet owners, those adopted from animal shelters, and those belonging to people who are unlikely to have them spayed or neutered. The program also focuses on methods of increasing adoptions and establishing programs to reduce the number of animals that are relinquished by their owners. Developed under the leadership of Teresa Dockery, Director, Spay Virginia currently has 5 regional programs and is in the process of developing plans for 7 other regions.

The progress that the Federation has made in the past 45 years is due in large part to strong leadership supported by the loyal support of an increasing number of animal welfare organizations, animal

(Continued next page)

control agencies, additional animal-related groups, and individual supporters. Persons notably influential include Edith Ballinger Price, who designed the Federation logo; Walt Lane and Liz Sills, who worked tirelessly for the Federation for many years; Jim Godwin, a dedicated protector of animals, through his participation in legislative efforts, to name a few. There are many additional unsung heroes who have helped to shape the development of the Federation to whom a debt of gratitude is owed as well.

It is on this foundation of the first 45 years that we must build the future of the Federation. Immediate plans include the continuation of the Spay Virginia project in its expansion to reach every area of the State. In partnership with the Humane Alliance of Asheville, North Carolina two "super clinics" will be opened in the near future, one in the Southwest Virginia/East Tennessee

Region and one in the Shenandoah Valley Region.

In response to continued requests from municipalities and shelters for assistance in improving facility operations the Federation hopes to develop a Mentoring Program to elevate the level of care of shelter animals, increase chances for their adoption and improve the image of animal control and care within the community. This will be dependent upon the availability of volunteer leadership and financial resources.

The nation looks to the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies as a model of progress in the animal welfare movement. It stands on a legacy of sound principles and effective leadership. What paves the pathway ahead? The future is limited only by the vision we share. We can Dare to Dream, and If We Can Dream It, We Can Do It! Will you join us on our journey?

by Peggy Allen, President



Washington County Animal Shelter Manager Ann Foley receives a hands-on lesson in shelter disease control methods during a visit from the VFHS Mentoring Team.

News from around Virginia

The Federation received a tremendous response to the last News From Around Virginia article and appreciates all of the newsletters that were received and hopes that organizations will continue to send them. However, if your organization is not included in this article, don't worry, we will include you in the next one. So, keep those newsletters coming and keep up the great work.

The **Animal Welfare League of Alexandria** celebrated their mascot's 13th birthday by accepting donations from the public to place candles on Chewie's non-edible birthday cake, which was displayed in the League's lobby during the month of March.

The **Animal Welfare League of Arlington** raised \$29,000 at the 7th Annual Casino Night.

With the help of volunteers and contributors, the **Augusta County SPCA** built an outdoor recreation area for the dogs. Four new pens will allow the dogs to play and visit with potential adopters.

The **Bristol Humane Society** has received a bequest for \$650,000 from

Margaret Mitchell. Her love for cats will enable them to use some of the funds to open a spay/neuter clinic for low-income families.

The **Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA** held its first Walk "Fur" Paws and over 200 people and their dogs walked to raise thousands of dollars.

In 2003, the **Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society** educated 2,000 children and 294 adults through their Humane Education programs and they were able to save 133 puppies through the Puppy Transport Program.

The **Heritage Humane Society** introduced a new holiday tradition with the first Christmas Eve with the Animals. Volunteers and staff brought the holiday spirit to the homeless animals at the shelter.

Page County has begun construction on its new animal shelter that will be centrally located near Stanley, about ten miles south of Luray. The 4,200 square foot facility is scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2004.

The **Madison-Greene Humane Society** is offering the opportunity for the public to sponsor cages. Sponsorship will provide care for the animal in a specific cage and allow the sponsor to track the animal on the PetFinder adoption site.

The **Richmond SPCA** celebrated its first anniversary in its new Robins-Starr Humane Center. In that year, the SPCA has adopted 2,004 pets into new homes, treated 1,800 pets medically and spayed and neutered 3,800 dogs and cats.

The **Roanoke Valley SPCA and Animal Care Services** had a ribbon cutting ceremony and public open house at the new shelter.

The **Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA** has started construction on their new Animal Care and Education Center. Supporters can purchase and create their own personal ceramic tiles to be displayed in the new facility.

The Virginia Federation of Humane Societies welcomes the Louisa County Humane Society as a new Active Member!

2004 VFHS Conference Summary

The Virginia Federation of Humane Societies 2004 Annual Conference took place on March 18-20 at the Wingate Inn in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The conference celebrated the Federation's 45 years of service to animal welfare.

Sponsors for the conference were the **ASPCA, Austin Cotton Company, LLC, Bosack & Kruger Charitable Foundation, Hill's Pet Nutrition, the HSUS, Petfinder.com/PETCO Foundation, PETSMART Charities, and the Pet Savers Foundation.**

The **Augusta SPCA**, under the leadership of Executive Director Debbie Caywood, received the *Compassion Award* which recognizes an active member organization that has demonstrated strong leadership qualities and has excelled in promoting animal welfare issues and programs. The *Compassion Award* honors **Pearl Twyne**, who founded the VFHS in 1959.

The *Humanitarian Award* honors **Jim Godwin**, former president of the Petersburg-Colonial Heights SPCA and a driving force in animal welfare legislation. This award is presented to an animal control officer who has made a significant impact in improving the image of the animal control profession in their community and who has demonstrated

overall excellence in their job performance. The 2004 recipient of the *Humanitarian Award* was Chesapeake ACO **Kathy Strouse**, who is also an officer with the Virginia Animal Control Association (VACA) and an instructor for the National Animal Control Association.

The *Companion Award* was established to honor a former shelter animal who



VFHS President Peggy Allen presents the 2004 Compassion Award to Dr. Charlotte Robinson, representing the Augusta County SPCA.

exemplifies the strength and value of the human-animal bond. This year's recipient was **Wolf**, a 3-year old German Shepherd mix adopted from the Culpeper Humane Society and currently in training as a search and rescue dog.

Established in 1992 by one of the Federation's early leaders, **Liz Sills**, the *Bravo Award* is presented to an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to outstanding service in animal welfare, and who reflects the values and standards of the VFHS. The 2004 Bravo Award recipient was **Evie Thrift**. Evie has served on the staff of several Virginia animal welfare organizations, is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, and has served as secretary of the VFHS Executive Committee.

Special guests attending the conference were **Dr. Suzanne Jenkins**, Assistant State Epidemiologist; and **Dage Blixt** and **Jeff Rumbaugh** of the USDA-Wildlife Services.

The conference was full of varied and useful information, according to the 200 participants from animal shelters, animal control agencies, and other animal-related organizations. Over 30 businesses and organizations participated in the exhibit area in the general session room and displayed and distributed product information and educational materials. Fun and functional door prizes, donated by the exhibitors and given out by master-of-ceremonies (and VACA President) **Mark Kumpf** during the social hour, resulted in everybody's being a winner!

With three in-depth seminars on Thursday afternoon, 15 workshops on Friday and Saturday, and the opportunity to obtain 13 hours of continuing education, there was something for everyone:

In a four hour session on *Care and Management of Feral Cats*, **Dr. Margaret Slater** of Texas A&M Veterinary School clarified the term "feral" and discussed various issues related to feral cats, including concerns about public health, disease, quality of life, and effects on wildlife and the community. Dr. Slater discussed the benefits and effectiveness of trap-neuter-release programs, and provided detailed information on how to develop such programs. For



Evie Thrift was the 2004 recipient of the Bravo Award, that recognizes outstanding service to animal welfare.



Wolf, winner of the 2004 Companion Award, poses with his handler, Michael Smith.

those who could not attend the long session, a shorter version was offered later in the conference.

In response to an ongoing and ever-growing request for a special session on human resource issues, **Cathleen P. Welsh**, Esquire, presented *Human Resources 101*. In this four hour session Ms. Welsh discussed regulations and agencies that cover employment laws, hiring practices, performance appraisals, discipline, investigations and providing references for past employees. Ms. Welsh works extensively in the area of human resources and employment law with the firm of Wharton, Adhizer and Weaver in the Shenandoah Valley.

The third four-hour session offered on Thursday was *Large Animal Management*, a hands-on class involving body condition scoring of beef and dairy cattle conducted by **Dr. Charlotte Robinson** at a local farm. Dr. Robinson, Staff Veterinarian for Animal Health and Welfare with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), also discussed proper feeding and sheltering of livestock.

Kathy Savesky, Executive Director of the Bosack & Kruger Charitable Foundation, presented *Working Smarter, Not Harder* in a general session. Ms. Savesky explained how to segment problems into manageable portions and how to target the population necessary to effect the greatest change.

Bark! Stop, Drop and Roll, presented by **Kerri Burns** with the American Humane Association, showed how people working with animals can change small movements to minimize a dog's fears and need for dominance, and thus decrease bites.

Wearing her other hat as Animal Welfare Specialist for Addison Biological Laboratories, Ms. Burns led a workshop on *Neutersol: the Innovative Alternative to Surgical Neutering*. Ms. Burns explained what Neutersol is and how it works, compared it to surgical alteration, and discussed its potential impact on pet overpopulation.

Denise Deisler, Chief Operations

Officer, and **Makena Yarbrough**, Director of Operations, for the Richmond SPCA presented *Project Safety Net*, explaining why it was put into place, how it was implemented, and how it has developed to effectively decrease the number of owner-relinquished animals in shelters.

Richmond SPCA Community Relations Manager **Tamsen Heckel** described the marketing aspects of the SPCA's web site in *Internet Marketing*. Ms. Heckel discussed strategies for collecting e-mail addresses and ways of promoting on-line traffic to a web site. A group exercise allowed class members to develop and present an E-marketing plan.

Feline Health and Prevention of Disease Transmission was presented by **Dr. Lila Miller**, senior director of National Shelter Outreach and Veterinary Advisor of the ASPCA. Topics included how diseases are spread, why disease transmission is hard to control in shelters, causes of various diseases, incubation periods, carriers, the role of stress, staff training, facility design, health care programs, sanitation, vaccinations, and common diseases found in shelters.

The annual *Legislative Update* was presented by **Teresa Dockery**, VFHS



Kathy Savesky, Executive Director of **Bozack & Kruger Charitable Foundation**, presented the keynote address in the Conference general session.



Sharon Day, T-Touch practitioner, discusses the stress-release technique for animals with Conference participants following her presentation.

liaison to the Virginia General Assembly. Ms. Dockery reviewed the 2004 animal welfare legislation.

A panel discussion *On Community Response to Animal Welfare Issues* included panel members **Tom Breeden**, Manassas attorney; **Kevin Kilgore**, Hanover County Animal Control; **Michelle Welch**, Assistant Commonwealth Attorney for Richmond; and **Dr. Charlotte Robinson** of VDACS. Members of the panel answered audience questions about issues that involve animals in the community.

Rich Farinato, director of The HSUS Captive Wildlife Protection Program, presented *Shelter Management of Pocket Pets and Captive Exotics*. Mr. Farinato discussed basic care, feeding, housing and capturing of exotic species, including reptiles and avians.

Regional High Volume Spay/Neuter Programs was presented by **Quita Mazzina** and **Karla Brestle, DVM**, of the Humane Alliance of Asheville, North Carolina. The Humane Alliance combines high quality, efficient surgical protocol with regional partnership with local humane groups, and has resulted in the sterilization of 105,000 animals in 10 years. **Teresa Dockery**, Director of the VFHS Spay Virginia program, announced a partnership with the

Humane Alliance to establish clinics in three regions of Virginia.

Patty Finch, Manager of Charitable Giving for PETsMART Charities, discussed the importance of following directions and providing all requested information and documentation when submitting grant applications.

Defining Abuse and Neglect: The Connection and Investigation was presented by Chesapeake Animal Bureau officer **Kathy Strouse**. Officer Strouse explained the investigative process, documentation, evidence collection and preservation, and the petition process. She also discussed elements of the crimes of animal abuse and neglect, probable cause, and the link between animal abuse and human abuse.

Robin Starr, Esquire, Chief Executive Officer of the Richmond SPCA, presented

Creating Good Relationships with Your Board of Directors. Topics included board responsibilities, methods to recruit good board members, fostering healthy board relations, and renewing and ending terms of board members.

Examples of stressors and stress release techniques for animals were demonstrated by **Sharon Day**, T-Touch practitioner, in *Using T-Touch Techniques in Reducing Stress in Shelter Animals*.

At the conclusion of the Conference, attendees were asked to complete surveys evaluating the facility and workshops and providing the opportunity to suggest topics for the 2005 conference.

The 2005 VFHS Conference will be held March 10–12 at the Wyndham Airport Hotel in Roanoke Virginia.



Pet Adoptions from local humane groups are among the features at the Beastie Bazaar. The 2004 event will be held November 5–7 in Upperville and will benefit VFHS's Spay VA project.

2004 General Assembly Session— Animal Legislation Summary

Passed and signed by governor:

HB 1831—Dangerous Dogs

Delegate Harvy Morgan

This bill adds to the definition of “dangerous dog” a dog that attacks or bites another dog and causes serious physical injury to the other dog. Dogs that injure dogs owned by the same person or during hunting are excluded. The current definition of “dangerous dog” includes dogs that attack companion animals other than dogs. This bill entitles the owner of any companion animal that is injured or killed by a dog to recover damages if (i) the injury occurred on the companion animal owner’s premises and (ii) the owner of the offending dog did not have permission from the companion animal’s owner to have his dog on the premises.

House Bill 144 — Animal Control

Officer Training

Delegate Robert Orrock

Current language requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the State Veterinarian to approve training standards for basic training and continuing education for animal control officers. This bill removes the

Department of Criminal Justice Services from the language. (Amends 3.1-796.104, 3.1-796.104:1 and 3.1-796.106)

House Bill 242 — Dogs attacking dogs and cats, and causing serious injury or death

Delegate Dave Nutter

This bill specifies that if a dog or cat is attacked on its owner’s property by a dog so as to cause injury or death, the owner of the injured dog or cat may use all reasonable and necessary force against the dog at the time of the attack to protect his dog or cat. Such owner may be presumed to have taken necessary and appropriate action to defend his dog or cat and shall therefore be presumed not to have violated this subsection. (Amends 3.1-796.122)

House Bill 1018 — Alternatives to student dissection of animals

Delegate James Dillard

This bill requires school divisions to provide students with alternatives to animal dissection in relevant public school courses or curriculum and directs the Board of Education to develop guidelines for the use of detailed models of animal anatomy and computer simulations as

alternatives to dissection and notification of students and parents of the option to decline to participate in animal dissection. (Adds section 22.1-200.01)

House Bill 1007 — Homeowners insurance; exclusions for dangerous or vicious animals

Delegate Thoms Rust

This bill authorizes the issuer of a homeowner’s policy, with the insured’s written consent, to exclude from coverage any liability resulting from an injury caused by a dangerous or vicious animal owned by or in the care, custody, or control of the insured if such animal has bitten, attacked, or inflicted injury on a person or companion animal. (Amends 38.2-2127) This bill incorporates HB 1332.

To obtain copies of these bills, visit <http://leg1.state.va.us/041/bil.htm>.

The VFHS has published a *2004–2005 Law Book*, which includes the Virginia Comprehensive Animal Laws and other Code sections that pertain to animals. To order your copy, please use the enclosed order form.

Spay Virginia Update

Spay Virginia, launched in October of 2001, is a statewide program operating under the auspices of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies. The program is designed to bring together private and municipal shelters, rescue groups, local governments, and veterinarians to address the problem of pet overpopulation. By working with Spay Virginia the needs in each region are assessed, existing services and resources are identified and a plan is developed that is tailored to the specific needs of each region.

The primary focus of the plan is to sterilize animals of low-income pet owners, those adopted from animal shelters, and those belonging to people who are unlikely to have them spayed and

neutered. The plan also focuses on methods of increasing adoptions and establishing programs to reduce the number of animals that are relinquished by their owners to shelters and rescue groups.

Spay Virginia currently has 5 regional programs and is working to develop plans in the other 7 regions. Each regional program is unique. The Central Regional program works through a transport system to shuttle animals into three low-cost spay/neuter clinics while the Piedmont Region works with a network of 50 local veterinarians and is developing a transport system. Southwest VA/East TN Region and the Shenandoah Valley Region are both opening "super clinics" in partnership

with Humane Alliance of Asheville, NC. Both clinics will be open by the summer of 2004. Funding has been raised for the startup of both clinics. The Margaret B. Mitchell, Humane Alliance Clinic received funding from the estate of Ms. Mitchell, founder of the Bristol Humane Society. The Humane Alliance of the Shenandoah Clinic will open in Harrisonburg thanks to the fundraising efforts of the regional organizations and a grant from the Bosack & Kruger Foundation.

Spay Virginia is rapidly becoming a 'national model'. Director, Teresa Dockery is presenting programs around the country on the development and the success of this cooperative effort.

Upcoming Conferences and Events:

Shelter Medicine Workshop

An introductory shelter medicine workshop for shelter/rescue personnel and Animal Control Officers is planned for early fall at the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) at VA Tech in Blacksburg. This first workshop will be offered to shelter staff, ACOs and rescuers in Southwest VA. Plans are to eventually offer it around the state. This event is being planned by CENTAUR (Center for Animal Human Relationships) of the VMRCVM, Humane Society of the US, the VA Federation of Humane Societies, and VA Partnership for Animal Welfare and Support.

The training provided in this workshop would not take the place of veterinary care for shelter animals, though would help ACO's and staff recognize issues that are treatable at the facility, identify more serious disease or injury and help prevent disease outbreak.

Main topics/issues that will be covered include:

- Identifying disease and overall health of animal and the ability to report this information to a veterinarian

- Identifying serious illness requiring immediate attention by a veterinarian
- Disease transmission and sanitation
- Animal intake, quarantine, etc
- Vaccination protocols (and if a wet lab is available, do demonstrations)
- Importance of diagnostic testing—pros and cons
- Medication protocol—what is legal without a veterinarian, etc.

"We will apply for Continuing Education credits for ACO's and Humane Investigators" says Lila Borge Wills, coordinator of the project. Anyone interested in participating in this workshop or a future workshop should contact Lila at lborge@vt.edu.

Upcoming Events:

August 19–22, 2004:

Conference on Homeless Animal Management and Policy, Orlando, FL
516-833-7767

www.champconference.org.

September 27–28, 2004:

American Humane Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA
800-227-4645

www.americanhumane.org

October 20-22, 2004:

Virginia Animal Control Association, Virginia Beach, VA
703-324-0211

www.acofunstop.com/vaca

November 5–7, 2004:

Annual Beastie Bazaar, benefitting VFHS, Ayrshire Farm, Upperville, VA
540-879-3384

www.beastiebazaar.org

March 10-12, 2005: Virginia Federation of Humane Societies Conference,

Roanoke, Virginia

540-879-3384

www.vfhs.org

April 6-9, 2005:

Humane Society of the United States Animal Care Expo, Atlanta, Georgia

www.hsus.org

Mark your Calendars!!!!

The 2005 VFHS Conference will be held March 10–12 at the Wyndham Roanoke Airport Hotel in Roanoke, Virginia. Don't miss three great days of workshops and continuing education

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Virginia is Well Represented at NCAD

The 3rd biennial National Conference on Animals in Disaster presented by The Humane Society of the United States was held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania May 12-15, 2004. This conference offered more than 60 hours of valuable seminars and workshops appealing to emergency managers and responders, animal care and control professionals, and animal disaster volunteers of all levels and experience. Participants included 300 people from 42 states as well as Costa Rica, Canada and England.

Dr. Christopher McNeill, Regional Veterinary Supervisor with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Ms. Peggy Allen, President of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, Inc., participated in a panel on State-Level Planning for Animals in Disaster. Dr. McNeill's presentation focused on the potential economic impact of disasters on agriculture economy in Virginia and

the role of the veterinary community in responding to disasters. Ms. Allen's presentation emphasized the need for animal welfare organizations and animal control agencies to prepare in advance for sheltering and care of animals during a disaster and the importance of working cooperatively with emergency personnel and government agencies.

William Maiden, Albemarle County, Virginia, animal control officer, participated in a panel on Planning Safe and Effective Evacuations. He discussed plans and resources needed to set up a temporary shelter for pet owners' animals. He used as an example the pet-friendly shelter set up in a local fire station with the assistance of the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA during Hurricane Isabel in September, 2003. Sheltering for pets was provided at one end of the fire station while housing for their owners was provided at the other end. Jetta Earhart, animal control officer for the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia, and

Peggy Allen participated in the Emergency Animal Sheltering Workshop and Exercise on the final day of the conference. Morning classroom instruction covered skills useful in dealing with any large-scale sheltering operation, including community planning, logistics, human resources, worker health and safety, administrative and legal issues, media and public relations, and closing the shelter after the disaster is over. Afternoon instruction included a hands-on emergency sheltering scenario during which participants set up a temporary shelter and practiced taking in animals, and observed demonstrations on large animal rescue.

The National Conference on Animals in Disaster was extraordinary and so well received in that it focused on a single animal-related issue, that of addressing the needs of animals in disasters. The enthusiasm of the participants was inspiring, and many already are looking forward to the conference in 2006.