

The State of Affairs

Changing Times

In the time since I have been involved in the animal welfare industry, I have noticed many changes beginning to sweep through the nation. Many states are now having their municipalities being forced to take on the responsibilities of animal control which in many cases was carried out through the local humane societies. It seems that there is a push being made to divest from animal control for the primary reason that animal control has an impact on euthanasia statistics. This is relevant and apparent when you listen to how shelters claim that they don't euthanize any adoptable animals and have a very low euthanasia rate. The key here is understanding the term "adoptable animals". This term doesn't apply to the very aggressive animals or very ill animals that many shelters put down. These animals are simply not adoptable. This has an impact on municipalities and animal control programs who have to absorb the brunt of euthanasia.

In order to decrease the euthanasia rate, there is a drive across the country for shelters to reduce this rate and to be what is seen as a no kill or low kill agency. The primary way to accomplish this is to not have an animal control program. As you are aware, animal control programs do not discriminate against the animals which they bring into the shelter nor do they choose to bring in only the cute and fuzzy ones. This in turn leads to a higher euthanasia rate because of the responsibility we have as animal control officers to provide for public health and safety. What happens is simple. In order to have high adoption rates, longtime humane societies divest from the function of animal control. This leaves many municipalities in a bind. For those municipalities that have had an animal program, where do you now house your animals? For those that do not have an animal program, what do we do with all the calls and the animals? The answer to both of these questions is the establishment of animal control programs and facilities (shelters) for the local government to provide.

Can the two coexist? It is important that you do learn to work together. If you create a working relationship with your local humane society, it may aid you in the ability to place animals for adoption. However, it is also important to realize that as you

NACA

2005 Training Calendar

Level 1 Academy

October 17 - 21
Sacramento, CA

November 14 - 18
Nashville, TN

December 12 - 16
Kansas City, MO

Level 2 Academy

October 10 - 14
Columbus, OH

Level 3 Academy
(Chemical Immobilization, Bite Stick, OCAT and Euthanasia are offered within Level 3 as separate classes.)

October 31 - November 4
Atlanta, GA

December 5 - 9
Phoenix, Arizona

For a registration form,
go to: www.nacanet.org



continue to grow as a newly-formed animal control agency, you will be looked upon — whether fairly or not — as the “pound” or the shelter that kills. And although euthanasia is a part of the job, it is important to remember that this process is still a very humane alternative and is not something that is dirty or wrong — regardless of how the picture gets painted.

What can you do if

your municipality is faced with such a dilemma? Seek those who have been through this very scenario. You can contact NACA and obtain outstanding training for the professionals in your field. Also, if you feel strong about change, join the NACA Board of Directors, which is currently seeking new recruits for the upcoming year. Contact NACA directly through the website.

The times they are a changing and we all need to be aware of what is happening around us and keep an open mind and an open eye so that we do not get swept away in this change.

Be active.

Be involved.

Make a difference.

Len Selkurt

NACA Board Member

2006 NACA TRAINING SCHEDULE

January 9 – 13, 2006	Atlanta, GA	Level I
January 23 - 27, 2006	Portland, OR	Level II
February 6 – 10, 2006	Chicago, IL	Level I
February 13 – 17, 2006	Phoenix, AZ	Level II
March 6 – 10, 2006	Albuquerque, NM	Level I
March 20 - 24, 2006	Nashville, TN	Level II
April 10 – 14, 2006	Kansas City, MO	Level III
April 24 – 28, 2006	Raleigh, NC	Level II
May 1 - 4, 2006	Harrisburg, PAPA Humane Program	
May 18 – 20, 2006	Oklahoma City, OK	NACA Training Conference
May 22 - 26, 2006	Denver, CO	Level I
June 5 – 9, 2006	Hartford, CT	Level I
June 19 – 23, 2006	Chicago, IL	Level II
July 10 – 14, 2006	Louisville, KY	Level II
July 24 – 28, 2006	Grand Rapids, MI	Level I
August 7 – 11, 2006	Moreno Valley, CA	Level I
August 21 – 25, 2006	Atlanta, GA	Level II
August 28 – September 1, 2006	Salt Lake City, UT	Level I
September 11 – 15, 2006	Dallas, TX	Level I
September 18 – 22, 2006	Kansas City, MO	Level II
October 2 – 6, 2006	Minneapolis, MN	Level II
October 16 – 20, 2006	Dayton, OH	Level I
October 23 – 27, 2006	Denver, CO	Level III
October 30 – November 3, 2006	Nashville, TN	Level I
November 13 – 17, 2006	Sacramento, CA	Level II
December 4 – 8, 2006	Kansas City, MO	Level I
December 11 – 15, 2006	Albuquerque, NM	Level III

Note: Registration forms are typically NOT available until 60 days prior to the class start date. Please check WWW.NACANET.ORG for updates.

NACA-State Association Presidents

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2006
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May 18-20
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