



HUMANE VOICE

The Animal Control Officer ... A Public Servant

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16b (NJ law), each municipality must have an Animal Control Officer. More than a legally required job, today's animal control officers perform a public service to the community. The days of the "dog catcher" are gone in the face of today's Certified Animal Control Officer. In addition to helping rehome lost or stray animals as part of their animal control contract, the ACO educates and involves citizens in the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Animal Control is a public service and the ACO is a public servant on the job 24 hours a day, carrying a pager when "off duty"! When their call to duty comes in, today's ACO will often leave a movie theater before the ending credits, a basket full of groceries sitting in a store aisle or unfinished dinners on the table. More often than not, that call will necessitate a physical response. It doesn't matter if it's below freezing, snowing, or worse. If the public has an animal related problem they can't contend with, they need help. That is a big part of the ACO's job, which many don't recognize. Animal Control Officers not only help animals but

assist people in their troubled times. ACO's are here to help ... to facilitate the animals needs. Do they need medical care? Are they lost? Who is the pet's owner? What kind of predicament did this creature get itself into? Not to worry though, the ACO will do their best to find a safe environment for the pet and deliver them to it.

At Stafford Township, picking up strays and rehoming them is only part of the service performed by the ACOs for the community. The Township and its ACOs see their job as helping pets AND their owners. If a beloved animal expires at home and the owner needs help getting their pet to the veterinarian, the township's ACOs will be there. Homebound elderly pet owners can even call on these dedicated servants to transport their pets to the local vet from time to time.

As Mike Melchionne, Stafford Township Certified Animal Control Officer, says, "I am proud to educate others as to proper and humane animal care and handling practices. I've learned to be fair and impartial, and when to enforce the law. I am glad I was chosen to be part of this rewarding service. To help and not hurt the animals and people I serve. I am proud to be an ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER."

Michael Melchionne is Chief Animal Cruelty Investigator for Stafford Township.

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Stop by the NJ Certified Animal Control Officers Association booth at the AWFNJ Conference.



March 26 and 27, 2004
DoubleTree Hotel
Somerset, NJ

To view the brochure or register go to:
www.awfnj.org
Hurry! Register by March 16th.

Sponsored By:



You are invited to join us on **March 26 and 27, 2004** for the **AWFNJ's** annual conference. One of the largest statewide conferences of animal welfare individuals and organizations, the **AWFNJ** has gathered the best and brightest speakers from national and local organizations to share their knowledge and to inspire you in your work.

Exhibit Hall

Friday – Noon to 8:30 pm
 Saturday – 8 am to 2 pm

Welcome Reception

Friday evening – 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Saturday Keynote

Ed Sayres / ASPCA - Saturday - 9:15 am

Special Award Presentations

Hero to Animals – Friday, Lunch
 Scott McVay Unity Award – Saturday, Lunch

Our Sponsors:

ASPCA, National Shelter Outreach • Petfinder.com
PETsMart Charities • The Humane Society of the United States
 Shelter Care & 24 Pet Watch • The Pet Savers Foundation
 Paws for a Cause • Austin Cotton Company

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and exposition with great vendors.
 Plus our great Silent Auction!

FRIDAY

Crime Scene Investigation

Sgt. John Sly, Police Department, City of Rutland

Envision Success

Bert Troughton, ASPCA, Director, Imagine Humane

De-stressing and Enriching Your Shelter's Kennel Environment

Dee Ganley, CPDT, Upper Valley Humane Society,
 Behavior/Training Manager

Combating Neighborhood Dog Fighting

Scott Giacoppo, MSPCA Metro South Project Coordinator

Animals and the Law

Part I: Advocacy for Legislation
 Nancy Perry, HSUS Director of Government Affairs and
 Julie Janovsky, HSUS, Senior State Legislative Specialist
 Part 2: Legal Issues Dealing with Animal Cruelty
 Sherry Ramsey, Esq.

When the Customer ISN'T Always Right: A New Approach to Customer Service and Adoption Policies

Jesse Winters, ASPCA, Administrative Director,
 National Shelter Outreach

Friday Special Guest – Anne Marie Lucas of the ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement.

See brochure for details www.awfnj.org

SATURDAY

Matchmaking: How to use Your Dog's Behavior Evaluations to More Successfully Match Dogs with Adopters

Dee Ganley, CPDT, Upper Valley Humane Society,
 Behavioral/Training Manager

Animal Capture and Handling

Nick Gilman, Animal Care Handling and Equipment Services
 (ACES) Vice President of Services

The Nuts and Bolts of Implementing a Community-Wide Trap-Neuter-Return Program

Bryan Kortis, Neighborhood Cats

Behavioral Assessments and Shelter Enrichment for Felines

Linda Thompson, Upper Valley Humane Society, Temperament Evaluator

Trapping - Keeping it Humane!

Nick Gilman, Animal Care Handling and Equipment Services
 (ACES), Vice President of Services

Rebels with a Cause: Reaching Teens through Service-Learning

Lisa Cushing, National Association for Humane and Environmental
 Education (NAHEE), The HSUS, Outreach Coordinator

Incredible Journeys - A Look at Animal Relocation

Sandy Monterose, ASPCA Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager,
 National Shelter Outreach

How to Write a Good Proposal for Funding

Robert Perry, Director of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation's
 Environmental and Welfare of Animals Programs

Statewide Spay/Neuter Program to Reduce Euthanasia

Teresa Dockery, Virginia Federation of Humane Societies,
 Director of Government Affairs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HUMANE VOICE

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

NEW JERSEY

A3074/S2154 and A2720 – Increase Animal Cruelty Signed into Law

AWFNJ is proud to announce that Governor McGreevey has signed this bill into law. Repeat offenders of animal cruelty laws, will now face third-degree penalties of up to five years in prison and \$15,000 in fines. In addition to imposing tougher criminal penalties, the new law increases the civil penalties that may be collected by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (SPCA) to between \$500 and \$5,000. Repeat offenders will be subject to additional civil penalties, according to the legislators.

Be sure to contact the Governor to express your appreciation.

Governor James McGreevey

PO Box 001

Trenton NJ 08625

Voice: 609-292-6000

Fax: 609-292-3454

Alternate Fax: 609-777-0357

<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html>

Humane Treatment of Calves Raised for Veal New Bill # A329 / S159

New bill # A329/S159 for old bill # A1948/S1478 requires humane treatment of calves raised for veal has been referred to the Senate Economic Growth, Agriculture and Tourism Committee on 1/13/04.

To find your legislator, go to:

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>

To view other pending animal legislation go to

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills/BillsBySubject.asp> and enter the subject "Animals"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

Adopt a Rescued Guinea Pig Month

Sponsor: ASPCA and Petfinder.com
www.aspc.org/shelters

March 7

9th Annual Animal Hall of Fame Dinner

Sponsor: NJ Veterinarian Foundation, Nestle Purina and News 12 NJ
Florham Park, NJ. www.njvma.org or 973-379-1100

March 7

Belmar St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sponsor: Monmouth County SPCA
www.monmouthcountyspca.org or 732-542-0040

March 10-13

2004 Animal Care Expo

Sponsor: The Humane Society of the United States
Houston, TX www.animalsheltering.org or 1-800-248-EXPO

March 13

Friendly Leprechaun for Pet Photos

Sponsor: Friends of the Bloomfield/Bukowski Animal Shelter (FoBAS)
West Orange, NJ 973-338-1366

March 14

Tricky Tray Fundraiser

Sponsor: Friends of the Bloomfield/Bukowski Animal Shelter (FoBAS)
Bloomfield, NJ 973-338-1366

March 21

Benefit Concert

Sponsor: Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter
Denville, NJ www.njshelter.org or 973-386-0590

March 26 -27

AWFNJ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sponsor: Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey
Somerset, NJ. www.awfnj.org or 856-740-1344

March 26-27

Copper Tree Sale

Sponsor: Ramapo Bergen Animal Refuge, RBARI
www.rbari.org or 201-337-5180

April

Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month

Sponsor: ASPCA
www.aspc.org/shelters

April 17 & 18

Garage Sale

Wild West City, NJ
Sponsor: BARKS 973-786-5763

April 30

Auction

Sponsor: RBARI
Ramsey, NJ 201-652-2367

ANIMAL WELFARE IN NEW JERSEY - MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

By Sandy Levine, NJN, Homeless Tails

When rushing to be on time for a breakfast meeting at a restaurant in Seaside Heights on a frigid January day, off in the distance I saw a little black dog running across the trafficked street. I cringed and prayed that the dog would cross without being hit as I looked around for an owner, but saw no one. I did what everyone reading this article does day in and day out. I put my plans on hold to do what I could to save a life.

Before I became involved in the animal welfare field, I probably wouldn't have stopped to help a stray dog...moreover, I wouldn't even have seen the dog. Just as the artist sees shadows and light where others simply see objects, animal welfare workers hear loud cries for help, where others hear silence. They see cats hiding behind dumpsters, injured dogs limping down the road, horses starving in the pasture. In some compassionate souls this heightened awareness is always present. In the rest of us it can be learned and developed.

I knew nothing about animal sheltering when,

while on assignment for NJN News more than a decade ago, I visited the Monmouth County SPCA in Eatontown. Executive Director Ursula Goetz took time out of her busy schedule to patiently explain the animal overpopulation problem to me. She told me about the thousands of dogs and cats who cram the state's shelters, and about the thousands who lose their lives when time runs out.

It was an epiphany for me. That one shelter visit, that one talk with an insider, eventually led me to become the producer and host of NJN's *Homeless Tails*. I write this as a reminder that you do make a difference when you take time to tell people what's going on in your shelters, in your rescue groups and on the streets. You never know whom you will reach or where it will lead.

The goal of *Homeless Tails* is not limited to adopting animals, although each successful placement is cause for celebration. The larger goal is to help you spread humane messages and tell your stories, not only about all the animals



January is Adopt-a-Rescued-Bird Month
February is Adopt-a-Rescued-Rabbit Month
March is Adopt-a-Rescued-Guinea Pig Month
April is Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month
June is Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month
October is Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month
November is Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Month
Visit www.aspca.org/shelters

Petfinder.com
ADOPT A HOMELESS PET

ASPCA[®]
NATIONAL SHELTER OUTREACH
Helping Shelters Help Communities

ANIMAL WELFARE IN NEW JERSEY (CONTINUED)

who need homes and the tremendous amount of suffering...but also about how people can help.

Some of the changes I've come across while producing *Homeless Tails* are inspiring. In the past most of the shelters that participated tried to find animals homes and, if the pet went home intact they hoped for the best. Now, each year more and more New Jersey shelters and rescue groups spay and neuter pets before they're adopted. Pediatric spaying and neutering, more clinics are performing these surgeries to guarantee no accidental litters. New Jersey veterinarians increasingly pitch in to help: through participation in *Homeless Tails* alone they have donated more than 500 surgeries to adopted animals.

Some groups implant a microchip in every animal before he or she is adopted. Others offer obedience classes and behavior counseling. Every year new groups tap into the incredible power of the Internet to promote adoptions and disseminate information.

I'm amazed by the energy of employees and volunteers who find time to bring humane education into the schools, to organize community outreach events and countless fundraisers, to write newsletters, and write legislators. All this is done in addition to dealing with an endless stream of animals coming through the front door who need much more than food and water: they come with broken hearts and broken bones.

When yet another dog comes into your shelter because the owner "developed allergies"; when a 10-year-old cat is surrendered because the owner

has "no time," it must be difficult to avoid becoming discouraged. Veterans of the animal welfare movement remind us to look back as we move forward.

It's clear New Jersey is moving in the right direction, with low-cost spaying and neutering programs, stiffer penalties for animal cruelty and much more.

On that January day in Seaside, with the bitter cold wind howling, I called out to the stray dog and finally caught her. The little six-month-old pit bull mix wore a collar but no ID. I saw a young man coming down the street, and asked if he were looking for his dog. I was relieved when the man, named CJ, said yes.

CJ was maybe 20-something, and eager to be on his way. Before he walked off, I implored him to attach ID to the dog's collar. I asked him if he were going to have her spayed. "No, I want her to have puppies." I think he said something about selling them. I felt compelled to give him a quick speech about all the dogs and cats without homes; about the millions who are euthanized. Even as I spoke, in my heart I knew I wasn't reaching him.

We can't change everyone's attitude about breeding house pets, or adopting, or spaying and neutering, or using ID. We can't even teach some people simple kindness. But that doesn't mean we can stop trying.

Sandy Levine is the host and producer of Homeless Tails on NJN Public Television which is funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Special Viewing: Homeless Tails, A Decade of Caring

Join us for a special showing of Sandy's half-hour, 10-year anniversary special, which will be shown at the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey's conference on Friday, March 26th at 8:30 p.m.

-Sponsored by The HSUS

**Join Today & Save On
Conference Registration!**

**JOIN THE AGENCIES THAT ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR NEW JERSEY ANIMALS
APPLICATION/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Name of Organization or Individual

Mailing Address

Email Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone (Day) (Evening)

I agree to support the principles and beliefs of the Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey.

Signature

Date

Membership Type: **Voting (\$40)*** **Individual (\$15)**
If Organization, please check: **Private/Non-Profit** **Governmental**

- New** (please send me my free NJ Animal Laws CD)
- Current Member - enclosed is my check for \$5** (please send me my NJ Animal Laws CD)
- Non-Member - enclosed is my check for \$15** (please send me my NJ Animal Laws CD)

*Voting members must be 501 (c)(3) non-profits OR local state or governmental agencies. Shelters applying for voting membership must submit their most recent health department inspection report. Adoption agencies must have written pre-screening and spay/neuter plans and submit copies of these policies. Call us for fee schedule or download online at www.awfnj.org

The AWFNJ is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent made possible by the law.

Please sign this application, enclose your check and mail to:

**Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey
816 N. Delsea Dr. #160, Glassboro, NJ 08028**



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Glassboro, NJ 08028

