



Society of Animal Welfare Administrators

Network News – Fall 2004

By Gary Tiscornia, SAWA President

SAWA members are often called upon to lead their respective organizations along paths lined with controversy and in activities where emotions run high. It is in these environments that reasoned methodical approaches often take a back seat to highly public demands for “action today.”

Understandably we have often reacted defensively to these emotional demands, particularly if they are highly public and accompanied by personal attacks on our integrity. This stimulus response cycle is polarizing, driving individuals and organizations that should be natural partners further and further apart.

Dave Loftus, President of Pet-Ark, has worked with individuals and organizations across the full spectrum of beliefs—transfer groups, no kill agencies, advocacy groups, national organizations, traditional nonprofit shelters and government animal services facilities. Through his work he had a front row seat from which to see the opportunities for the development of powerful collaborations as well as the obstacles to collaboration that grew larger with each salvo of invective. Two years ago, tired of witnessing the wasting of resources that could be put to better use, he approached SAWA and asked if we would be willing to convene a meeting of influencers from among this disparate group of stakeholders to explore common ground and find ways to work together to end the senseless death of millions of cats and dogs in shelters each year.

After one exploratory meeting, SAWA organized a two and a half day facilitated meeting at the Asilomar Conference Center on the central California coast. CEOs and/or Key decision makers from the following national, regional and local agencies attended.

American Humane Association
Arizona Humane Society
ASPCA
Best Friends Animal Sanctuary
Dubuque Humane Society
Dumb Friends League
Ft. Wayne Animal Care & Control
Hawaiian Humane Society
Humane Society & SPCA of Seattle/King Co.
Maddie’s Fund

The HSUS
National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy
Pet-Ark, Inc.
San Diego Humane Society SPCA
SAWA
Southeast Area Animal Control Authority
SPCA of Monterey County

Considerable agreement was achieved at Asilomar on many issues important to all of us and a public statement reflecting that agreement should be available and posted on the SAWA web site as well as the web sites of other participating organizations soon.

SAWA is pleased to have been the catalyst for beginning a process that we believe will lead to broad grass roots cooperation among agencies and an end to hurtful and harmful rhetoric.

Success requires that we influence our respective constituencies to accept change. In some cases change will mean that those formerly perceived as adversaries will now be embraced as our new partners and collaborators. The accurate measurement of community wide success will require transparency and agreement on standardization of reporting among cooperating agencies. Success will lie in community based collaborations brought to life by people from across the spectrum of humane beliefs, each with the courage and vision to take the risks necessary to begin trusting one another and working together toward a common goal.

from Victoria Wellens---

Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) Board President and Ozaukee Humane Society (OHS) Board President, announced that their respective organizations are going to strengthen their existing partnership by merging their two organizations. This opportunity will enable both groups to significantly increase their impact in the community and to more effectively meet the needs of animals. Angela Rester, OHS Board President, reports that, “This is an exciting time for two strong and independent organizations to pool their resources and talents as one so that even more resources can be focused on fulfilling our mission.”

Donate a Silent Auction item, and you could win \$150 American Express Gift Certificate –

We hope to offer dozens of fabulous, sure-to-please items at this year's conference Silent Auction (held on the night of the opening reception) so that everyone can enjoy the bidding and go home with a special treat, but we need your help!

We'd like to ask each of our members to help support the efforts of SAWA by donating one new item for our silent auction. Here are some suggestions for items that we think would be very popular with our conference attendees:

- "Regional"-themed gift baskets with gourmet food items and memorabilia
- Jewelry
- Pet-themed artwork or gift items
- Sports memorabilia
- Athletic items/sporting goods/golf shirts
- Gift certificates for national chain stores, restaurants, hotels or airlines
- Shelter equipment (control sticks, animal behavior training videos)
- Spa items (robes, lotions, hand-milled soaps)

The auction will be held on Saturday, November 6. Email me at cnaumann@azhumane.org by November 1 to let me know if you'll be donating something for if you have any questions.

Let's have fun with this contest and raise lots of money for more great SAWA programs at the same time – thanks for your help, and good luck!

SAWA would like to thank Julie Morris and the ASPCA for providing a free copy of "Making Plans" to any candidate studying for the SAWA/CAWA certification test. Thank you!

Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff is the first-of-its-kind veterinary textbook dedicated solely to the field of shelter medicine. Editors Miller and Zawistowski have assembled 37 veterinary and shelter experts to provide both veterinarians and non-veterinarians with current medical and non-medical information pertaining to the health and welfare of animals in shelters available for sale at www.ASPCA.org.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Iams, The ASPCA National Shelter Outreach Department is launching national roll-out of the Meet Your Match™ Canine-ality Adoption Program. For training dates, locations or more information contact kellyc@aspca.org.

Donald Anthony Award to Jim Tedford---

Jodi Buckman presented the American Humane's 2004 Donald Anthony Award to **Jim Tedford**. The award recognizes individuals for dedicated and unselfish service to the welfare of animals. Recipients are nominated by Animal Protection Services Staff, Chair of the American Humane Shelter Advisory Committee and the President of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators. He's made incredible contributions to the animal welfare movement.

Gary Tiscornia said about Jim:

Jim has been a friend, colleague and mentor to hundreds if not thousands of individuals each of who are wiser, more knowledgeable and more capable leaders because of their association with Jim. He extends his friendship and helping hand to all in need without reservation. During Jim's tenure as a Board Member and then President of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators he consistently exemplified the characteristics of leadership we should all aspire to. Today, The Society of Animal Welfare Administrators is a richer more vibrant organization because of Jim's selfless service and dedication.

On behalf of all of your friends at SAWA Jim, CONGRATULATIONS!

Not too late to take the CAWA Examination. Late registrations accompanied by a \$50 fee will be accepted through Friday, October 29...visit our website at www.sawanetwork.org for more information.

Certification has been a long time coming...by **Harry Dates and Patti Mercer**. The struggle to be treated as professionals has been inhibited by many things, including ourselves. Many of us started over 25 years ago, not as Executive Directors or Presidents/CEOs, but as down the line workers trying to assist animals. We saw things and heard things that we wanted to change, and stayed on to effect those changes. Animals benefited from this effort and so did our communities. Recognition for those efforts began as appreciation and slowly translated to better salaries and benefits. We are unique to our communities as professionals, and fortunately come together statewide or nationwide for training. Respect for your organization is of course earned as is respect for the organization's administrator. One element key to that respect is certification. The knowledge/education in your evaluation, formal or informal, is enhanced. We now have administrators with a wide variety of backgrounds and education entering the field. We are thankful for this trend and we will be extremely proud to have CAWA after our names.

American Kennel Club -

American Kennel Club – Companion Animal Recovery sm (AKC CAR), the organization managing and maintaining the HomeAgain® microchip data base, recently facilitated a commercial mailing to many data base registrants by Oreck Merchandising, LLC. The mailing offered to sell the recipient a vacuum cleaner at half the retail price and indicated that an undisclosed portion of the proceeds would go toward supporting an AKC CAR veterinary scholarship program, search and rescue group grants, as well as non-profit animal shelter scanner and microchip donations. SAWA is also informed that there was a subsequent mailing to many registrants of a solicitation for the purchase greeting cards.

Direct mail solicitations to individuals who have purchased or received as part of an adoption the HomeAgain® microchip implant from an animal shelter (or elsewhere) is concerning. Consumers purchasing microchips want to protect their pets. Knowing they will be on one more direct mail list if they do is an unconscionable impediment to their purchasing microchip protection. It is also an unwelcome intrusion and disservice to pet owners who have already protected their pets with the HomeAgain® Microchip Identification System. Most SAWA members whose agencies use the HomeAgain® Microchip Identification System assumed there would be no commercial use of the database they have actively helped create. It is particularly concerning for shelters that inform adopters or clients that they do not share their client lists for the purpose of third party mailings. Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation, the marketer and distributor of the HomeAgain® Microchip Identification System opposes these mailing and have informed SAWA that they believe AKC CAR has breached the contract under which AKC CAR manages and maintains the HomeAgain® microchip database. AKC CAR has informed SAWA that their attorneys do not believe there has been a breach of that contract. However, AKC CAR also informed SAWA of their belief that the third party mailings to registrants that they have allowed were a mistake and they have assured us that they will not allow any similar mailings in the future. The AKC CAR contract with Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation ends in February of 2005. We are encouraged that both parties have expressed their desire to put an end to this practice but are disappointed that AKC CAR engaged in the commercialization of this lifeline for lost pets in the first place.

SAWA encourages those of you who are concerned about the commercialization of the HomeAgain® microchip database to contact Sue Ritchie at AKC CAR. Her phone number is (919) 816-3510. You can also express your opinion on this issue to Joe Bonacci at Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation. He can be reached at (908) 629-3543.

The SAWA Directors of Development Group is off to a great start. Nine people joined the original steering committee to kick-off the group back in May 2004. Since then, many others have expressed interest in joining.

The group now has an active list serve on yahoo: http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/SAWADevelopment_Group

To become a member of the list serve, send an email to John Nagy at jnagy@ddfl.org. Many group members have already started using the list serve as a way to network and to share ideas.

We are currently organizing our first meeting to be held at the SAWA Conference in San Diego. The Directors of Development Caucus meeting will be held on Monday, November 8 at 4:45 PM. The meeting will serve as a way to officially kick-off the group, facilitate networking and to set goals. An agenda for the meeting will soon be finalized.

For more information about the group, please call Jessica Regan at (585) 223-1330, ext. 245 or email: regan@lollypop.com

Bob Downey reported that on May 22nd, the town of Hallam, Nebraska with a population of approximately 300 people, was totally wiped out by a tornado. Lincoln Animal Control and Capital Humane Society were both involved in helping with the animal issues related to this with a very successful outcome. Storm Stories with the Weather Channel will be coming to Lincoln the week of October 18th to film an episode about this tornado and the animal side of it.

**WELCOME TO SAWA
New SAWA Members!**

Executive Level

Jocelyn Bouchard, Tim Crum, Karen Dixon, Kelley Durham, Elizabeth Fourar-Laidi, Leigh Grady, Sharon Harvey, Jill Hatfield, Stacy Herro, Martha Kalina, Kevin M. Kilgore, Pam McCloud-Smith, Lee Nester, Kathleen Prew, Xan Rawls, Heather Schmid, Ray Sim, William Thompson

Manager Level

Nancy Benton, Gail Buchwald, Janis Cleland, DVM, Jeffery Coleson, Jane Deming, PB Engel, Marie George, Paul Goldstein, Barb Green, Cassie Hall, Eve Holt, Robyn Kraft, Anna MacNeil-Allcock, Jessica Morris, Marna Ramnath, Jessica Regan, Ronald Tomas, Frank Valente, Linda Weiczorek

Business Level

Sara Brickely, Susana Della Maddalena, Lorena Parada, Christopher Quinlan, Dr. Hannis Stoddard, Mark Warren

Associate Level

Peggy Allen, Kimberly Connery, Erica Gaudet Hughes, Paul Jolly, Marie Wheatley, Dave Wintz