

Maine Federation of Humane Societies  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 3, 2010  
Animal Refuge League, Westbrook

**Board members present:** Suzan Bell, Susan Britt, Deb Clark, Steve Dostie, Steve Jacobsen, Katie Lisnik, Karen Stimpson, Sheila Wellehan

**Board members absent:** Paula Mitchell, Doug Radziewicz, Hillary Roberts, Tracy Sala

**Staff:** Carol Ann MacKinnon

**Guests:** Bobbi Allen, Animal Welfare Society co-shelter manager; Toni McLellan, Animal Refuge League director of operations; Patsy Murphy, Animal Refuge League executive director; Adam Ricci, SOME PIT!; Dina Trefethen, Senior Manager of Shelter Research & Development, ASPCA.

1. **Minutes** of the February meeting were accepted.
2. Treasurer Steve Jacobsen distributed profit & loss previous year comparison and balance sheet. Our assets stand at \$84,910. **Treasurer's report** accepted.
3. **Coordinator's report:** Carol Ann distributed her report prior to the meeting via e-mail. Highlights of her work the past month include planning for the Annual Conference, shelter surveys, and assembling documents required to keep us in good standing with Maine Share. **Conference is March 24** at the Black Bear Inn in Orono. Suzan Bell will help set up with other staff members and volunteers from Bangor Humane. Susan Britt noted that animal control officers will receive 8 continuing education credits for attending the ACO workshop, which will focus on disease prevention and recognition and animal handling. Deb Clark has older **surveys** that Carol Ann may want to include in her historical analysis. Susan suggested that we think about what we want from the shelter surveys, as they require much effort. We thought survey data would be helpful in transport, grant requests, and increasing our knowledge of the health of our animal population.
4. **Legislation & AWAC:** Work session is being held today on L.D. 1598, the bill to increase the penalty for animal abuse and neglect cases involving more than 25 animals to a felony. There is a "fiscal note" attached, so it is possible that probation may be substituted for the felony charge due to the state's financial situation, according to Steve Dostie. Steve reported passage looks smooth for L.D. 1587, the bill to allow the Animal Welfare Program to raise money as Help Fix ME currently does. AWAC (Animal Welfare Advisory Committee) had an emergency meeting on the Clinton horses. We discussed the **impact of the economy on Maine's Animal Welfare Program**. Deb said that when a group studied how to improve animal welfare in Maine some years ago, they recommended 8 state humane agents to cover the state. There are now just 4 state humane agents covering Maine. Steve D. said that currently 35% of dog caretakers license their dogs. If that number doubled, the Animal Welfare Program's financial problems would be solved. **Suzan and Patsy Murphy volunteered to contact a University of Maine communications professor to create a PSA for the fall encouraging caretakers to**

**license their dogs.** Ideally the PSA would play on TV, computer (especially Facebook), and mobile phone.

5. **Cats:** Spay Day USA efforts around the state were very successful, with close to 500 spay or neuter surgeries happening from Kennebunk to Bangor both in shelter clinics and in cooperating veterinarians' offices.
6. **Old Business:** Susan will work with Carol Ann on editing the Intra-state Transport Tips for the website.
7. **New Business:**
  - Steve Jacobsen reported that the Animal Welfare Society is moving in the direction of an in-house spay and neuter clinic
  - Norma Worley shared via Steve D. that over 500 people purchased "Adopt" license plates just last month.
  - Red Cross is offering pet first aid March 24 in Augusta.
  - Karen Stimpson shared that Coastal Humane's grief support groups are both popular and powerful. MidCoast Hospice of Maine is facilitating two 12-member groups, one for people whose animals have died and another for those anticipating the loss.
  - Susan congratulated Coastal for winning \$5000 from Subaru for their video. Subaru is partnering with the ASPCA. You can check out the video at [www.ASPCApro.org](http://www.ASPCApro.org).
8. **Board Session:** We agreed on the performance review process for our coordinator presented by Sheila Wellehan and Karen. We authorized Carol Ann to spend up to \$1000 for a laptop. Our next meeting will be devoted to planning. Karen will facilitate. Carol Ann will e-mail these questions to shelters on our list: 1) What services would you like to see Maine Fed provide (except for funding)?, 2) What should Maine Fed be doing statewide? And 3) What do you think the purpose of Maine Fed is?

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at Greater Androscoggin Humane Society.