

The Animal Welfare Coalition of Hampton Roads generously offered Virginia Voters for Animal Welfare an opportunity to present at their May meeting.

As a result, the 5/1/05 meeting of Virginia Voters for Animal Welfare regarding pet overpopulation was held with the Animal Welfare Coalition of Hampton Roads. The meeting was held in Norfolk. The AWCHR meeting started at 2pm; the VVAW portion of the meeting started at 3:15.

Attendees:

Rebecca Bietz

Kathie Boeshe/Cat Rescue, Inc.

Dana Cheek/Norfolk SPCA

Lillian Clancy/VVAW

Cindy Confer/Suffolk Animal Control

Vicki Goldrich

Leisa Gregor

Debra Griggs/Animal Rescue of Tidewater

Cindy Hiddemen

Beth Hodge/Cat Rescue, Inc.

Lane Killam/Corp. Cats

Jillian Kinkaid/Cat Rescue, Inc.

Karen Lauderback/Animal Rescue of Tidewater

Jane Lauter

Donald Marro/VVAW

Erica Mascarello/SHINE

Cynthia Moose

Shawne Owen/Cat Rescue, Inc.

Joseph Riddick/Riddick & Associates

Kasha Winston

Melissa Woodard

Nancy Woodward/Cocker Rescue

Ginger Zarske

Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves, providing their name and the group with which they are affiliated.

Agenda

Don Marro started by indicating VVAW's desire to be an agent of change and to serve as a catalyst to quicken the pace of change within existing institutions regarding animal welfare issues in Virginia. He reiterated his hope that VVAW will ultimately work itself out of existence, having revitalized the established institutions.

Don asked the group how many had heard about VVAW, and virtually all had. He asked what was known of VVAW. Generally, comments suggested that VVAW has become visible in the last year particularly for shaking up the status quo.

Don reviewed:

- the start of the group in 2003
- the failure of SJR37's passage by the General Assembly in the 2004 session to approve a privately funded study of pet overpopulation in Virginia
- the study of pet overpopulation was done any way
- stand-out issues included the classified ads serving as a source of so many dogs and cats and a missed source of money to jurisdictions in which those businesses operate
- the status of the 7 bills which VVAW had patroned and introduced in the 2005 session
- the intent of VVAW to become 501c3/4, PAC (527)

Joseph Riddick asked what VVAW's 2006 legislative initiatives were, and how VVAW might wish to work together with AWCHR for the 2006 session.

The process being instituted currently by VVAW is

- to grow VVAW grassroots membership statewide; membership forms were made available and are also available on line
- to spread the word about VVAW goals; a sample of brochures available for distribution was given to attendees
- to involve local jurisdictions in the legislative initiatives of VVAW at the Board of Supervisors or City Council level, meeting them, contributing to their campaigns, and generally letting local areas know that there is serious interest in making change in animal welfare in Virginia, and that the cause will not fade away
- to work top-down as well with members of Virginia's General Assembly through lobbying and campaign support

The meeting ended with a brief update on the effort on gas chamber elimination via the office of Governor Warner.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:20 pm.