

Communication

Among The Animal Control,
Shelter, and Veterinary
Communities

Goal

- Could a central process be established to provide a useful channel for sharing and solving issues with regard to animal care in the state and among the animal shelters, animal control agencies, and the veterinary community?

Ways to Enhance or Establish Communications

- Disease Outbreaks and Health Histories of animals
- A Standardized History Form or P/E Form
- **If used by all shelters and animal control agencies in Oregon would make it easier to know care given to each individual pet
- Share information and address "hot topics"
- **West Nile Virus, Canine Influenza, Pet Food Recall
- Share Disaster Preparedness plans for municipalities and Counties

Ways to Convey Information

- Designate an organization (OVMA?) to maintain a statewide database of animal welfare organizations , animal control, shelter, veterinary, and other related organizations
- Web Site where information is accessible (OVMA website?)
- *** Web Site could include mission and position statements, list serve for posted announcements and discussion, and a comprehensive list of organizations and facilities

Ways to Convey Information

- Coordinate and collaborate on Animal Welfare Efforts, avoiding overlapping efforts
- Facilitate Licensing – animal control and veterinary regulations such as Rabies Vaccination Reporting which is now being done in several areas of the State (Klamath, Lane, and Multnomah Counties)
- Where necessary, establish ad hoc committees to further coordination and collaboration
- Identify regional "go to" people

Ways to Convey Information

- Conduct an Annual Conference for the Three Communities- HERE WE ARE TODAY!!

OVMA's Animal Forum Council on Communication

- Met in January 2007
- This group included:
- *Dr. Kris Brant
- *Dr. Doug McInnis
- *Dr. Susan Morgan
- *Dr. Jacqui Neilson
- *Dr. William Nunn

Communication Council Conclusions

- Create opportunities for one-on-one communication between the three agencies
- Encourage veterinarians to develop personal relationships with their animal control/local shelter personnel
- Host a forum to encourage flow of communication
- Breakout sessions at forums by geographic location to discuss/share ideas

Communication Council Conclusions

- ASAP- Formed in the Portland Metro Area bridging 4 counties and comprised of
- *Cat Adoption Team
- *Clackamas County Dog Control
- *Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon
- *Multnomah County Animal Services
- *Oregon Humane Society
- *Southwest Washington Humane Society
- *Washington County Animal Services/Bonnie L Hays Small Animal Shelter

Communication Council Conclusions

- Encourage veterinarians to support the care or "sponsor" a pet or pets every month
- Some veterinarians may not participate because the problem seems too overwhelming or they don't know what to do or how to make a difference
- By defining assistance helps the practitioner be able to set limits so that they are not overtaxed.
- Some veterinarians donate over \$20,000 in services a year!!

Communication Council Conclusions

- Zoonotic Disease- A topic for discussion at a forum or by web site posting discussing what diseases to report and how to report them.
- State Veterinarians role in documenting and monitoring diseases in shelters, animal control facilities, and veterinary practices.
- Standardized History or P/E Form-Ideally information should be available to practitioners and shelter upon request

What Communication Method to Use?

- OVMA? Or other web site?
- Email and email newsletter (OVMA or other organization as facilitators)?
- Other Communication Lines?
- The OVMA is a statewide group while many issues are local and perhaps better addressed locally. So what information do we include in our communications?

What is the Answer on How to Communicate?

- We must have a common solid consensus on what information, ideas, and concepts we want to communicate before we can decide which method or method to use.
- The information communicated needs to be meaningful, purposeful, and easily accessible.

Conclusion