

HOPE ANIMAL-ASSISTED CRISIS RESPONSE

Report of Animal Welfare Committee

March 30, 2008

Committee Members:

Chair: Claudine Singer
Member: Roxanna Sanchez
Member: Diane Valentine
Member: Judy Johns (Certified Animal Safety Rep for American Humane)
Ex Officio: Dave Valentine
Advisor: Dean Cerf, DVM (Veterinary Consultant)

Purpose of the committee:

The purpose of the Animal Welfare committee is to research, create, and recommend to the Board of Directors policies for the humane care and treatment of HOPE AACR animals while on duty.

Recent work of the committee:

This work has been ongoing since November 2005. The Committee meets on a monthly basis for approximately four to five hours. The last two sessions have focused on the next level of revisions to the content of the Welfare Guidelines Manual. The format and layout have also been modified and, as a result, the manual is now easier to navigate.

In the next couple of days, I will turn over the manual to an editor. This work will be done by Frank Nolan, a friend to HOPE who is a teacher, grammarian and author. Frank wrote an article for HOPE which was published in the Spring 2006 Latham Letter. This article is included in our media packets that have been regularly distributed.

The manual will also be reviewed by Dr. Dean Cerf, the renowned veterinarian from New Jersey, who has volunteered his time to review our work. In addition to Dr. Cerf's appraisal of content from a medical perspective, our having a professional from the east coast lend his expertise is especially beneficial when considering Cold Weather Risk Factors that are covered in the manual.

A copy of the manual will be sent to each member of the Board of Directors immediately after the final edit and the incorporation of Dr. Cerf's comments and suggestions. A final draft will be created after the last revisions are made based on input from the Board of Directors. Lastly, a PowerPoint presentation will be created, based on the manual, for the purpose of training and educating HOPE AACR teams.

Respectfully Submitted,

Claudine Singer
Animal Welfare Chair