

HOPE ANIMAL-ASSISTED CRISIS RESPONSE

Report of Team Welfare Committee

December 6, 2008

Committee Members:

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

Purpose of the committee:

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

Scope of Project

This work which has been ongoing since November 2005 was completed on April 20. A draft of the manual was then turned over to author and grammarian, Nick Nolan, for editing and reviewed by Dr Dean Cerf, a renowned Veterinarian from New Jersey. Final revisions, based on Dr Cerf's and Mr. Nolan's recommendations were then incorporated and the manual was sent for review by the HOPE AACR Board of Directors.

Revisions were made based on the BOD recommendations. Thank you to those of you who took the time to review this important work and give me your feedback. The manual was then given to Dave Valantine who transferred the Guidelines in a PDF format and is now posted on our website. I would like for the BOD of directors to review it one last time before it will be made available to our teams. The deadline for this review is January 15th.

I had the opportunity to introduce the Welfare Guidelines to our October workshop, and it occurred to me that the guidelines were directed to both the handler and canine partner, therefore the title has changed to "TEAM WELFARE GUIDELINES", hope you all agree with this!

The next phase of this project will be to finalize a Power Point Presentation for the purpose of training HOPE AACR teams. The October workshop practice run was a very good trial.

Again I would like to thank my Committee Members for their devotion, the constant brainstorming and "homework" that went on for so long! This project could not have been completed without each and everyone's commitment. As the Committee Chair, I consider myself truly blessed by all of my teammate's continued support and friendship.

For the profound love of our canine partners and their unconditional devotion, I remain

Pawsitively,

Claudine Singer
Team Welfare Chair