

**The Arizona Animal Advocates  
Volunteer Conference and Certification Program**

***Animal Welfare 101***

**Cheryl Naumann, President & CEO, Arizona Humane Society**

Animal welfare organizations are diverse in their missions, mandates and philosophies. Experts outlined the continuum of diversity within animal welfare agencies and discussed the roles of animal control agencies, humane societies, animal rights organizations, rescue groups and sanctuaries.

Experts also discussed trends in the national animal welfare movement and how groups join together to become a powerful voice for animals, and updates were provided on future legislative initiatives designed to further protect animals in our state.

***Terminology/Tolerance Mutual Respect***

**Sam Kabbel, President & CEO, Arizona Animal Welfare League and SPCA**

“A house divided against itself can’t stand.” This section highlighted the importance and impact of using respectful and precise terminology including aspects of the Asilomar Accords. Emphasis was placed on demonstrating tolerance of each differing philosophy while “agreeing to disagree” for the best interest of the animals.

***Animal Welfare & Law***

**Dr. Rodrigo Silva, Director, Maricopa County Animal Care & Control**

This presentation included pertinent information about the legal issues in animal welfare, Arizona State Statutes and what “can and can’t” be done to protect animals.

***Cruelty***

**Andy Starr, Field Operations Manager, Arizona Humane Society**

Animal cruelty takes on many forms. The Arizona Humane Society discussed stories of the people and animals involved in negligence, hoarding, and overt cruelty cases. The link between violence toward humans and violence toward animals was highlighted.

***Forensics***

**Dr. Nancy Bradley, Chief Veterinarian, Arizona Humane Society**

Experts presented a discussion of forensics and provided a demonstration of tools used to gather evidence in animal cruelty cases.

***Overpopulation***

**Kelley Durham, Executive Director, Second Chance Center for Animals**

Experts discussed the root causes of pet overpopulation and underscored the need for spay/neuter programs.

### ***Feral and Free-Roaming Cat Overpopulation***

**Jan Raven Chair, AzCATs**

The unique needs of feral cats were discussed and included talks about Trap-Neuter-Return, as the proactive, humane solution to the free-roaming cat problem, contrasted with Catch and Kill.

### ***Dog Body Language***

**Sam Kabbel**

Volunteers interacting with dogs learned to read basic body language in order to remain safe and also to interact with dogs in a manner that contributes to the positive mental health of the dog.

### ***Tips for Sustaining Personal Resilience in Animal Welfare***

**Sean Pershing, HR Training Manager, Humane Society of Southern Arizona**

Volunteers experience extreme highs and extreme lows while working in animal welfare. This seminar gave attendees the tools needed to maintain their own mental health, avoid burnout and be able to continue to give the gift of their time to the animals.

### ***Shelter Medicine***

**Kathleen Hoffman, DVM, Shelter Veterinarian, Arizona Animal Welfare League and SPCA**

The participants learned about zoonotic diseases such as ringworm, how to protect their personal pets from any “shelter diseases” and how to look for illness in the animals that they are caring for. The concept of “herd health” was explored so that volunteers will understand the often “tough” decisions that shelters have to make when dealing with contagious but treatable disease.

### ***Volunteer Opportunities***

Fostering, behavior and training, and adoption counseling were cited by local agencies as the three top areas of need for trained volunteers, but there are many other areas open to volunteers. Volunteer Managers from the presenting organizations discussed the range of volunteer opportunities and what further training may be required.

### ***Behavior 101***

**Sam Kabbel**

Experts provided an introduction to dog and cat behavior as it relates to shelter and rescue environments. In addition to general behavior information, experts discussed the concepts of kennel stress and enrichment.