

# THE WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL AGENCIES

## History and Accomplishments Timeline

The Federation is a collective voice of organizations dedicated to the humane treatment of Washington State animals and utilizes legislation, training, programs and support services to achieve its goals. Formed in 1908 to promote animal protection – today, the Federation provides animal welfare organizations professional support, training, best practices, and networking opportunities.

### History

- 1908 – The organization is founded as the Washington Humane Society. In the mid 1900s, British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington organizations merged with the Federation to provide support to animal welfare agencies and promote animal protection.
  - Key individuals advancing the work of the Federation have included: Penny Cistero, Don Jordan, Gail Mackie, Nancy McKenney, Jeanne Werner, Archie Fiedler, Warren Cox, Bob Hillman, Ann Graves, Greg Bloomfield, Anne Oneha, Virginia Knaus, Annette Laico, Rick Collard, Lea Lucky, Austin Gates, Emily Harrington, Kent Robertson, Joel Warner, Scott Wallace, Vicki Schmitz, Phil Olson, Diane Weber, Steve Pierce, Roger Childress, Greg Bloomfield, Nancy Hill, Denise McVicker and board members.
- 1980 – The Mt. St. Helens eruption was a milestone event for the Federation. Members established an Emergency Fund for animals impacted by the event. The fund continues today utilizing the seed money from the disaster. Funds are used to assist member organizations grappling with disasters such as ice storms, wild fires, and flooding; and also to assist shelters in need.
- 1983 – The Washington Animal Control Association (WACA) was formed as a separate membership organization for individual animal control officers. WACA is dedicated to promoting professionalism and excellence in animal care, education, and enforcement while protecting animal welfare and public safety through training and support. WACA currently offers the Animal Control Officer Academy, a program specifically designed for the professional Animal Control Officer.
- 1994 – Under the leadership of Roger Childress, The Federation successfully promoted a state dangerous dog law and statute making Animal Cruelty a felony. For the first time since 1901, the Washington State legislature passed a bill to dramatically improve the RCW 16.52 which addresses animal cruelty.
- 1995 – An ice storm impacting Eastern Washington and Idaho triggers the Federation to respond with a disaster relief fund.
- 1997 – The Federation provides hay and fencing materials to communities impacted by eastern Washington wildfires.

- 2003 – The Federation worked closely with the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association (WSVMA) and the Washington Department of Health to develop WAC 246-933-501 to clearly allow qualified animal control agencies and humane societies to provide limited veterinary services to low-income members of our communities.
- 2005 – The Federation coordinated transfers of homeless New Orleans pets to WA facilities as part of the national response to Hurricane Katrina.
- 2006 – The Federation, in association with the Washington Department of Licensing, sponsored the “We Love Our Pets” WA state vanity vehicle license plate program. A portion of the plate cost supports a spay/neuter fund administered by the Federation. Member agencies that submit their Annual Animal Population Survey are eligible to apply for spay/neuter grants of up to \$5000.
- 2006-2014 – Federation members collaborated with HSUS and the ASPCA to address several animal seizure cases, including: Connell Mini Aussies, Tri Cities American Eskimo “Shopping Cart” Dogs, and the Ritzville Cat Hoarding cases.
- 2009 – In association with HSUS, the “puppy mill bill” (SB5651) was signed into law establishing humane requirements for large scale breeding operations. The new law limits the number of intact adult dogs one person can possess (50 dogs) and includes mandatory care standards for anyone who has custody of more than 10 intact adult dogs. Standards include access to clean food and water, exercise, proper housing, basic veterinary care, and protections from extreme weather conditions.
- 2011 – HSUS and the Washingtonians for Humane Farms coalition, launch the cage free hen initiative. The petition signature gathering effort was launched to halt the use of battery cage confinement in state egg production. The Washington ballot measure, Yes On 1130, prompted the national egg producers to work with HSUS to draft national legislation in support of more humane egg production practices.
- 2012 – The Federation and WSVMA established a work group to discuss and collaborate on legislation and policies impacting the animal welfare and veterinary communities.
- 2012 – The Federation coordinated efforts with the Veterinary Board of Governors and the Board of Pharmacy to review and implement changes to Chapter 246-886 WAC Animal Control legend drug and WAC 246-887-050, 060, and 070 rules regulating the possession, administration, and storage of sodium pentobarbital. These efforts ensured that shelters had a voice in regulations impacting their ability to provide humane euthanasia. Also in 2012, the Federation developed a comprehensive and state-approved training to certify staff in approved euthanasia procedures and practices. These trainings are held annually across the state to maintain the professional level and quality of this end-of-life procedure. The Federation continues to monitor proposed changes by the Board of Pharmacy, and provides professional perspective and testimony to guide board decisions.

- 2013 – The Federation supported the WSVMA’s effort resulting in RCW 16.52.330: Veterinarians—Animal cruelty—Liability immunity. In this law, a veterinarian lawfully licensed in this state to practice veterinary medicine who reports, in good faith and in the normal course of business, a suspected incident of animal cruelty that is punishable under this chapter to the proper authorities is immune from liability in any civil or criminal action brought against such veterinarian for reporting the suspected incident.
- 2015 – The Federation participates in Humane Society International’s efforts to place dogs rescued from the Korean Meat Trade. By alerting Federation members, 80+ dogs were transferred to WA State shelters.
- 2015 – A Strategic Planning Committee is formed to review the organization’s mission, vision, values, and goals for the future of animal welfare in Washington State.
- 2015 – The Federation worked closely with Senator Joe Fain, and colleagues from the ASPCA and HSUS, to successfully pass Senate Bill 5501. The new law closed loopholes and improved the current animal cruelty statutes relating to the crimes of animal cruelty in the first and second degree, animal fighting, and leaving and/or confining an animal in a motor vehicle or certain enclosed spaces.
- 2016 – The Federation aligned with the ASPCA and HSUS to successfully pass another modification to the anti-cruelty statute. This law holds abusive or negligent owners responsible for the cost of care of their animals, and avoids uncertain futures for animals that are seized by removing ambiguity from the amount of time allowed for due process.

## **Federation Program Activities and Services**

- Administers a Disaster Relief Fund to member organizations to assist people and their animals impacted by fire, floods, extreme weather, and other catastrophes.
- Administers and compiles information from member organizations participating in the Annual Animal Population Survey. The survey tracks trends and identifies issues and resources required by participating agencies.
- Offers spay/neuter support grants funded by “We Love Our Pets” license plate fees.
- Implements Calls to Action to support state legislation promoting animal welfare.
- Offers regional workshops and provides annual trainings for animal welfare professionals, including:
  - Euthanasia by Injection Certification
  - Compassion Fatigue
  - Customer Service
  - Horse Abuse Investigation
  - Communication Skills
  - Officer Safety
  - Adoption Screening Techniques
  - Animal Disaster Relief
  - Dog Behavior and Reading Body Language
- 2011 – A cat summit was sponsored to discuss solutions to cat overpopulation.
- 2012 – Animal Control Officers were invited to a “Backyard Barnyard Workshop.”

## **Federation Infrastructure**

- The Federation is governed by an elected, volunteer Board of Directors representing 13-15 member organizations.
- The Executive Committee is comprised of the Board President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.
- Paid staff includes a part-time Programs Administrator.
- The Board includes several committees, including: Board Development, Executive, Legislative, Marketing/Membership and Professional Development.
- The Treasurer supervises financial management of the Federation. Financial reports are shared with the full Board of Directors and include outside financial review.