

REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

S.O.P. # A-1

SUBJECT: Mission and Objectives

DATE: December 10, 2008

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to define the mission and objectives of the Regional Animal Shelter (R.A.S.).

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy and mission of the R.A.S. to support responsible pet ownership, humane treatment of animals, equipping pets with identification at all times, compliance with statutes and ordinances for the control and protection of animals, spaying and neutering, and control of pet overpopulation.

Personnel will maintain the animal shelter, wherein stray and unwanted animals from King William County and King and Queen County will be housed pending redemption by owners, adoption by citizens, transfer to other releasing agencies, euthanasia, or other disposition as provided by statute, ordinance and regulation. It shall be the policy of R.A.S. to maintain the highest standard of animal care possible, and to be diligent in efforts to reunite lost pets with owners, or to secure new homes through responsible pet adoption of pets that are healthy and behaviorally sound.

It is well documented that owner irresponsibility, failure to equip pets with identification, failure to spay and neuter pets, failure to abide by statutes and ordinances for the control and protection of animals, and allowing the uncontrolled breeding of pets all contribute to the costs of animal care and control services, the number of complaints from citizens, animal neglect and cruelty, the number of animals impounded, and the high volume of animals that must be euthanized by shelters.

III. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of R.A.S. shall be as follows:

- A. Promote the safety and welfare of citizens and animals.

- B. Maintain a shelter where animals are properly and humanely cared for according to statute, ordinance, and regulation.
- C. Reunite impounded or lost animals with their owners whenever possible.
- D. Administer a responsible adoption program, including strict provisions for spaying and neutering, so as to secure new homes for animals whose custody has reverted to R.A.S.
- E. Euthanize animals, as necessary, in a caring and humane manner as approved by statute, ordinance and regulation.
- F. Educate the public regarding responsible pet ownership, laws, ordinances for the care and control of animals, and the problems of pet overpopulation.
- G. Cooperate with other animal care and control agencies for the welfare and protection of citizens and animals.
- H. Cooperate with the County Animal Control Departments and other agencies as necessary and appropriate.
- I. Make our shelter a place that is attractive and convenient to the community.
- J. Strive for and support professionalism in the field of animal care and control.

These objectives shall in no way be considered absolute. The R.A.S. shall continually seek new and better ways of serving the public and animals through training, education, and innovative techniques.