

Come Together, Right Now

Community animal welfare gets a national voice in new federation

It seems like everybody's got one. If you work for a casino, you've got one. If you manufacture composite wood products, you've got one. If you're a sex educator, an actor, a Mexican-American engineer, a medical writer, an ancient military historian, a col-



**The NATIONAL FEDERATION
of HUMANE SOCIETIES**

lector of duck stamps, an air traffic controller, a nude recreationist, a feminist economist, a gay rodeo rider, or a Jewish librarian, you're covered: There's an association out there for you, working to push your needs, make your case, and work for legislation that will help your cause.

For humane society employees, there's long been the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA), which aims to provide networking opportunities, training, and certification for people in the field. But until now, there's been no

organization working for the general goals of humane organizations—pressing the issues that shelters, animal control agencies, and rescue

organizations care most about.

Now there's the National Federation of Humane Societies, a new trade association designed to represent the interests and ideals of those working in animal shelters, animal control, and rescue groups. The group has been chartered “to

promote animal welfare ideas and policies to the general public; to encourage best practices and policies within our industry; to advance legislation; and to prompt corporations to adopt policies that reflect humane sensibilities.”

Membership fees are staggered based on organizations' annual budgets. Any incorporated 501 (c)(3) or animal control agency is eligible to become a member, though some of the federation's lobbying activities may make official participation tricky for municipal agencies. But the initial board is hoping for a strong response; the more organizations and agencies that sign on, the stronger the voice of the federation will be.

For information on membership, contact Steve Putnam, interim coordinator, at sputnam@humane-federation.org. —Carrie Allan