

California Council of Companion Animal Advocates

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CCCAA: Different Voices - One Goal

After years of often adversarial interaction among pet industries and advocacy groups, the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) recognized the need for cooperative action in trying to end the surplus of unwanted dogs and cats in America. This realization led to the invitation of representatives from humane advocacy groups, animal control, the pet store industry, veterinary medicine, and purebred dog and cat breeders to the UC Davis-CVMA Pet Overpopulation Symposium (POP I) held on December 6-7, 1991.

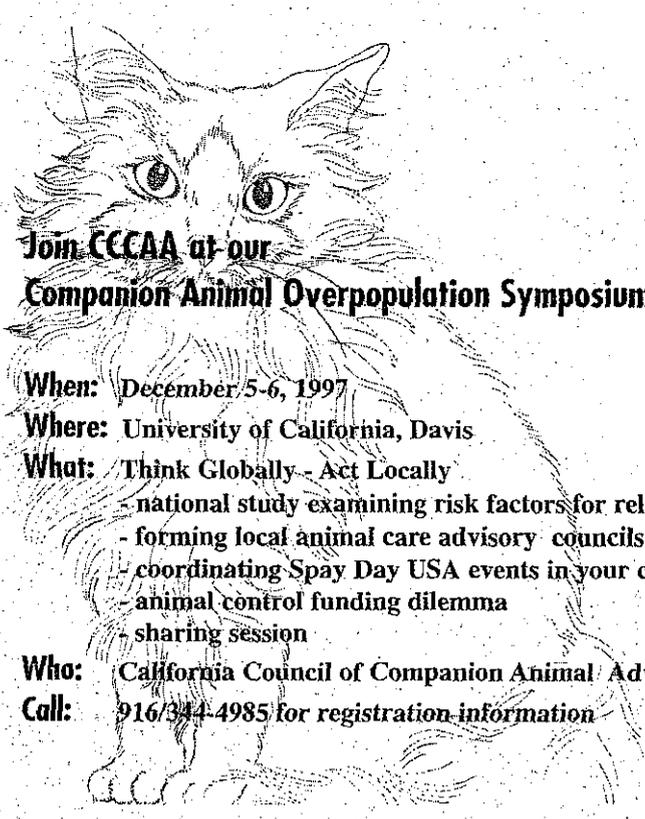
As expected, the symposium began with a mixture of curiosity, excitement, anxiety and tension among the organizers and participants. The keynote speaker, Paul Phibbs, CAE, set the tone with his presentation on problem solving by "lateral thinking," which challenged the participants to set aside old approaches to the problem and encouraged cooperative action. Following the general session, nationally recognized speakers brought unusual perspectives to the topics of pet population control, legislation and education. After each topic, the 64 participants were divided into four breakout groups where discussion of the topic was led by a professional facilitator. Each group tried to come up with innovative actions on each topic. All actions were recorded, discussed and prioritized. There was remarkable tolerance for the differing perspectives of the participants and an almost palpable feeling of camaraderie that developed during the two day symposium. This unanimous desire for continued cooperative endeavors led the group to recommend "the formation of a

coalition of organizations and individuals who are represented here at this meeting for the purpose of translating the ideas and suggestions generated by this symposium into a viable working program to solve the problem of pet overpopulation."

This led to the formation of the California Council of Companion Animal Advocates (CCCAA or Council) which held its first meeting at the CVMA offices in Sacramento on February 19, 1992. After introductions of individual and group histories and goals, officers were elected, bylaws passed and committees selected to enable the Council to begin to address the multifaceted problem of unwanted dogs and cats in America.

During two years of approximately bimonthly meetings, the Council helped find funding for Dr. Philip Kass' shelter survey, as part of the newly formed National Council for Pet Population Study and Policy's regional study, regarding the factors that lead to shelter relinquishment of dogs and cats. The Council also helped gain support for early-age spay/neuter from CVMA, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Humane Association, American Kennel Club, Cat Fancier's Association and The Humane Society of the United States. They stimulated communication among the microchip companies and informed them of our demand for the development of a universal scanner. The Council supported Representative Maloney's bill in Congress to ensure that seniors in federally-assisted housing will be able to have a pet.

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**Join CCCAA at our
Companion Animal Overpopulation Symposium**

When: December 5-6, 1997

Where: University of California, Davis

What: Think Globally - Act Locally
- national study examining risk factors for relinquishing animals
- forming local animal care advisory councils
- coordinating Spay Day USA events in your community
- animal control funding dilemma
- sharing session

Who: California Council of Companion Animal Advocates

Call: 916/344-4985 for registration information

*POP III: A Challenge to
Participants and the CCCAA*

On December 1-2, 1995, 144 participants came together at CCCAA's POP III in San Marcos. Participation in the breakout groups provided the basis for interesting dialogue and concerted attempts at problem solving.

The challenge to participants was to positively identify common interests to create possibilities for working with each other; then identify three common barriers to successfully working together. In addition, participants in breakout groups listed what they liked about the seminar, what they would do differently and what they would like to see happen at the next symposium to be held at UC Davis, December 5-6, 1997. Each breakout group was facilitated by a member of the CCCAA, who was provided training by professional facilitator Jan Elster prior to the symposium. The composition of the breakout groups was constructed with an effort to achieve representation from a variety of vested interests in pet population issues, thus ensuring a lively discussion.

The CCCAA invites participants from POP III to obtain copies of the entire symposium report from Bette Morgan in the CVMA office.

*Disaster Planning from The Humane Society of the
United States and the American Red Cross*

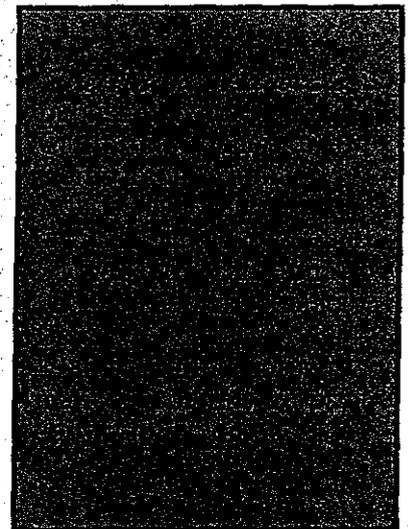
The best way to protect your family from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. Everyone who shares a home with companion animals should make sure that plan includes their pets. Being prepared saves lives. The HSUS and the American Red Cross produced a helpful pamphlet for pet owners. To receive a free copy of "Pets and Disasters: Getting Prepared," send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to The Humane Society of the United States, West Coast Regional Office, 5301 Madison Avenue, Suite 202, P.O. Box 417220, Sacramento, California 95841-7220.



The "4 Spay/Neuter" sticker was developed by the California Council of Companion Animal Advocates to increase awareness on the importance of sterilizing dogs and cats. One pet store owner, Heidi Warner, places the stickers on products that she sells in her store. Get your veterinarian to stick them on all invoices. Place them on your outgoing mail. Spread the word! The cost is \$20 for a roll of 500.

You can order the stickers from:
California Veterinary Medical Association
5231 Madison Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95841

Make your check payable to CCCAA



What to give a
friend who gives you
everything...



Photography by: Bruno Joachim Studio

A HOME.

Call your local animal shelter today
about pet adoption.

Sponsored by the Pet Food Institute with the support of the California Council of Companion Animal Advocates 

*Adoption Poster
Available from
CCCAA and the Pet
Food Institute*

The California Council of Companion Animal Advocates (CCCAA) will begin distributing this four-color poster, "What To Give A Friend Who Gives You Everything...A Home," beginning in March 1997. The poster, sponsored by the Pet Food Institute (PFI) with the support of CCCAA, encourages shelter animal adoption and will be widely circulated in schools, libraries and retail establishments throughout California.

CCCAA: Different Voices - One Goal (continued)

The CCCAA helped carry legislation in California requiring animals adopted from shelters to be neutered within 60 days, which passed both houses of the legislature only to be vetoed by Governor Wilson. The Council co-sponsored AB 302, requiring free-roaming cats to be neutered which was, unfortunately, withdrawn due to opposition from the San Francisco SPCA and many feral cat groups. We also organized POP II which was held on December 3-4, 1993 at UC Davis. This symposium had 91 participants representing even more varied constituencies and states than the first symposium. Speakers and breakout sessions addressed the following topics: Research Projects and Approaches; Regulatory and Legislative Efforts; Funding Sources; Early-Age Spay and Neuter Programs; and Local Efforts.

In the two years following POP II, the CCCAA, in an effort to attain more varied representation and perspective expanded its membership to include the National Pet Alliance, a groomer, a pet store owner and the Doris Day Animal League. We continued our support of the National Council's survey through Dr. Kass. In addition, legislation to require sterilization of animals from shelters through an enforceable spay/neuter contract (a sponsor is being sought) was drafted. The CCCAA developed a sticker to be placed on pet products or envelopes which supports early spay/neuter.

Recognizing that companion animal population problems vary among different locales, one of the Council's primary efforts was in developing guidelines for local council formation. Local councils have been formed with varying success in Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego.

POP III was held in San Marcos on December 1-2, 1995. The participants heard "point-counterpoint" presentations on such controversial topics as "Where Do Pets Come From?", "Is There Really a Pet Overpopulation Problem?", "Should There Be a Pet Food Tax?" and "What About Cat Licensing?" The participants were divided into six breakout groups and asked to discuss and list the five most prominent barriers to working together. During this symposium representatives were chosen to make up a local council for San Diego County. Due to the past history in this community, this was certainly our most difficult and divisive symposium. This reinforced the Council's feeling that it is at the local level that we must concentrate on finding those strategies that will overcome the old enmities keeping us from being able to communicate effectively, discover our shared goals, develop mutual respect and nurture a spirit of cooperation.

If we truly share the goal of ending the killing of unwanted dogs and cats in America, we must not be distracted by the divisive actions of some within our various constituencies. We must have faith in

each other. We must recognize our interdependence. We must keep our eyes on the goal. We must remember that although we may not agree on every detail, we are all interested in animal welfare: humane advocates, animal rightists, veterinarians, pet owners, animal control officers, pet store owners and purebred dog and cat fanciers alike. If we will listen to each other, try to understand our different perspectives and make decisions based on what is best for the animals, the CCCAA is convinced we can find long-term solutions to this national disgrace.

SPAY DAY



U★S★A

Thank you for your participation in Spay Day USA 1997! Sign your organization up for 1998. Remember veterinarians are a vital component of the program.

Based on preliminary reports, it projected that 50,000 spays/neuters were performed in conjunction with this day to prevent unwanted pets. For further information, contact Margaret Carpenter at the Doris Day Animal League. 202/546-1761.