

State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State

Office of Professional Regulation
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James C. Condos, Secretary of State
Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary
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APPLICATION FOR PRELIMINARY SUNRISE REVIEW ASSESSMENT

1. Profession/Occupation seeking regulation:

Shelters, rescues, humane societies and any entity/organization that rehomes/adopts and/or imports/transportes feline and canine companion animals

2. Person/Organization submitting application:

Name:	Joyce Cameron
Organization:	Vermont Humane Federation, Animal Welfare Regulations Coalition
Address: Street/City/State/Zip	142 Kindness Court, So. Burlington, VT, 05403

Phone:	802-862-0135 x12	Cell Phone:	802-324-6750
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3. Vermont Society/ Association (Attach copies of Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics)

Name: Vermont Humane Federation	No current standards of practice or code of ethics. See vermonthumane.org for organization details
Contact Person: Jessica Danyow, President	
Address: 236 Boardman St., Middlebury, VT 05753	

Phone:	802-388-1100	Cell Phone:	802-377-7727
Fax:	802-382-9320	E-Mail:	jessica@homewardboundanimals.org

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4. National Society/ Association (Attach copies of Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics)

Name:	The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement, The Association of Shelter Veterinarians
Contact Person:	None specific
Address: Street/City/State/Zip	AAWA 15508 W. Bell Rd. Surprise, AZ 85374, ASV • 3225 Alphawood Dr, Apex, NC 27539

Phone:	AAWA 888-600-3648	Cell Phone:	
Fax:		E-Mail:	admin@theaawa.org;info@sheltervet.org

5. Does the National Organization have a license or certification process? If "Yes", attach supporting documentation.	YES	NO
		X

6. List other states currently regulating this profession/occupation. For each state attach copies of the laws and rules.
See addendum attached. **Note: the most current regulation data tables attached are from 2016 and have not been updated or verified by the applicant.**

7. Define the services provided by this profession/occupation. What is the Scope of Practice?
{If space provided is insufficient, attach additional sheets as needed.}

Animal Adoption Agencies:

The scope of practice of the activities of animal adoption agencies, as agencies that deal in the welfare of animals, are covered in <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/20/19.4>. In layman's terms, animal adoption agencies best practices state that they receive and provide care for homeless animals, medical and behavioral rehabilitation, including an evaluation of temperament for the purposes of safely placing into the community, and publicize said animals as available for adoption. These practices may be carried out in a single, dedicated building or in a network of private homes or a combination of the above. Best practices also dictate that adoption agencies work with licensed Vermont veterinarians to provide medical care and ensure sterilization of all animals prior to adoption and that all adoption agencies have a system for receiving adoption applications from prospective adopters and for screening applications in an effort to make a suitable and humane match between animal and person. Adoption agencies provide post-adoption support as the animal transitions from agency to individual home and the agency maintains the capacity to accept the animal back into its care if the adoption match fails. Best practices are not adhered to among all organizations and other than the legal requirements around disposition (including euthanasia) of animals, there are no parameters for how the above described work must be performed or if all steps are necessary.

Animal Transport Agencies:

Transport agencies and individuals drive and/or fly homeless animals from one state to another. Typically, they work with both a "source" agency from which they get animals and a "destination" agency to which the animals are delivered and from which they are then adopted. In some cases, transport drivers deliver animals directly to adopters in Vermont, meeting in public parking lots or highway rest stops. The adoption process for these types of transports are handled electronically prior to transport by the source shelter and the adopter, with all fees going to the source shelter. Transports that operate in this fashion typically have no physical presence in the state. Vermont's guidelines regarding animal transport are attached. The state of Vermont's health requirements are inadequate with the only guideline regarding animal transport being a signed certificate on interstate transport (see Addendum 2 for VT Title 20 § 3915). Vermont's regulations are less stringent than surrounding states, and so many transports travel to Brattleboro and the Upper Valley to off-load dogs to adopters from all over New England.

8. What harm or danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the public can be demonstrated if the practice of this profession/occupation were to remain unregulated? Note: The potential for harm must be recognizable and not remote of speculative.

(If space provided is insufficient, attach additional sheets as needed.)

If the practice of companion animal sheltering and/or transportation remains unregulated there is potential for three types of harm to the health, safety, and welfare of the public: communicable disease, risk to public safety and workplace safety, and emotional distress/financial loss. Members of Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, municipal officials from around the state, members of the Vermont Humane Federation, rescues and shelters, breeders, groomers and dog trainers were solicited for feedback in response to this question. We received 42 responses and 62 % of respondees replied that regulation was needed.

The biggest risk to the public is communicable zoonotic disease - from parasite-borne diseases such as Lyme, Leptospirosis, and Giardia to blood borne disease such as rabies - being brought into the state and not handled properly. The second most commonly cited risk is the public safety danger posed by behaviorally unsound and potentially dangerous animals being transported into the state and adopted out by individuals and organizations that lack resources to modify this dangerous behavior and/or the failure to re-take possession of the animal if an adoption fails. Animal shelter and rescue employees are at a higher risk of bodily harm from these animals. The potential for emotional distress and financial loss can be significant when a well-meaning adopter ends up with an animal whose health and/or temperament are not fairly represented. The adopter may be faced with extraordinary medical bills and emotional heartbreak if the animal dies or has to be surrendered (to an organization that is trained and has the resources to address the animal's needs).

Please see attached addendum for the individual comments of the stakeholders that were solicited.

9. What benefit can the public reasonably expect if this profession/occupation is regulated and how would it be measured?

(If space provided is insufficient, attach additional sheets as needed.)

If companion animal sheltering and/or transportation (of canines and felines) is regulated, the public can reasonably expect that their adopted companion animals will be free from communicable disease, and be of sound temperament and not dangerous (and/or they will be provided with resources and support to address the problem at and beyond the point of adoption; They can expect that the animal(s) they are adopting have been provided with medical care or pointed to resources to provide care, to address pre-existing conditions such as heartworm disease; They can expect that the organization from which they adopted will exist as a resource for them and support them through the adoption and post-adoption period, including accepting return of the animal if the adopter feels it is in their best interest given the circumstances. This metric will be measured by assessing the intake data from the state's existing humane societies to assess the reduction in animals that are surrendered to them after being adopted from another entity/organization. The public can expect that the facilities housing animals adopted by the public will meet minimum standards of safety and sanitation according to best practices and be subject to periodic inspections by the regulatory body.

10. Why isn't the public protected from unprofessional practitioners through means other than regulation? (For example, criminal penalties, consumer fraud laws, small claims court, civil litigation, etc.?)

{If space provided is insufficient, attach additional sheets as needed.}

See Attached

11. Are you seeking:

Licensure **Certification** **Registration**

{See 26 V.S.A. § 3101 a. Definition}

12. a. What other regulated professions/occupations perform similar services to those of this profession/occupation? **None**

12. b. How will the program distinguish between or among respective scopes of practice?

(If space provided is insufficient, attach additional sheets as needed.)

- 12. a. None
- 12. b. Not Applicable

13. How many practitioners of this profession/occupation do you estimate are practicing in Vermont? 125+

14. Estimate the percentage of the practitioners practicing in the following settings.

Independent	Clinics	Hospitals	Other
100%			

15. Is formal education required? <i>(If Yes, complete below.)</i>		Yes	No
Not currently			
Education Requirements	N/A		
Where may this education be obtained?	N/A		

16. Is supervised experience required in addition to, or instead of, formal education? (If "Yes», complete below) currently N/A		Yes	No
Education Requirements	N/A		
Where may this experience be obtained?	N/A		
17. Is there a National examination? (If "Yes", complete below.) No		Yes	No X

Name and address of examination agency

Name of Agency	N/A
Street	
City/State/Zip	

18. Does this professional/occupation need continuing education? (If "Yes", complete below.) {If space provided is insufficient, attach additional sheets as needed.)		Yes	No
currently N/A			X

<p>19. Based on the criteria you proposed as a requirement to become licensed/certified/registered, estimate how many of the current practitioners will qualify?</p>	<p>100% of Humane Societies (13 active) and VHF members, but unsure of other entities</p>
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20. What transitional provisions/"grandfather provisions" do you propose for current practitioners to obtain licensure/certification/registration?
(When space provided is insufficient, attach additional sheets as needed.)

See provisions attached. For the purpose of brevity, these are only partial provisions and we expect to provide details and specificity around the regulations that we propose as we proceed through the regulatory process.

21. Attach copies of any proposed legislative bill(s) related to this request. N/A

22. Attach a list of all interested persons or groups in favor of, or opposed to, this request. Have they been consulted?

Yes, via a survey of shelters, rescues, vets, humane societies et. al. See addendum attached and answer to Question #8 for list of professions included in the survey.

23. Include any statistical data on disciplinary actions for this profession/occupation in other States.

We have queried national animal welfare organizations and none are aware of any existent database that compiles information on disciplinary actions in our profession.

24. What is the applicant seeking to gain through regulation of the occupational group? What benefit does regulation bring to members of this occupational group?
 See attached.

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Q #7 - Addendum

Current Vermont Guidelines:

MOVEMENT OF COMPANION ANIMALS

The term "health certificate", or Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, is a document that is completed prior to transport of a companion animal into Vermont by a veterinarian licensed in the state of the companion animal's origin. Health certificates document the consignor and consignee names and addresses and confirm that the animal to be moved is free of contagious disease prior to transport.

The examination of an animal and completion of its health certificate is an important prerequisite to moving that animal interstate. **Vermont only requires the completion of health certificates in instances when companion animals are being imported into Vermont for purposes of exchange, sale, resale or adoption.**

If you are permanently relocating to Vermont with your companion animal or traveling to Vermont with your companion animal to go on vacation or attend school, a health certificate is not required. However, it is recommended that you consult with your veterinarian prior to travel to ensure that your pet is healthy enough to handle the travel and that he or she is appropriately vaccinated.

Importation from another state

Transport of dogs, cats, ferrets, or wolf-hybrids into Vermont from another state is governed by Vermont Statute Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety Chapter 194 which states:

§ 3915. Health certificate for transport into state

(a) A dog, cat, ferret, or wolf-hybrid imported into the state for sale, resale, exchange, or donation shall be accompanied by an official health certificate or similar certificate of inspection for the dog, cat, ferret, or wolf-hybrid issued by a veterinarian licensed in the state or country of origin. The certificate shall certify that:

(1) The dog, cat, ferret, or wolf-hybrid has been inspected and is free of visible signs of infections or contagious or communicable disease; and

(2) If the dog, cat, ferret, or wolf-hybrid is more than three months of age, the dog, cat, ferret, or wolf-hybrid has a current rabies vaccination or is a specific breed, for which a rabies vaccination is not age-appropriate.

(b) The agency of agriculture, food and markets may adopt rules regarding the issuance and contents of any certificate required under subsection (a) of this section. (Added 2009, No. 158 (Adj. Sess.), § 15. (<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal-health/animal-health-regulations/movement-companion-animals>)).

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Q #8 - Respondents to animal welfare professionals survey comments

Communicable disease

- there is currently no system to ensure that animals in the shelter/rescue population get proper vaccinations or treatment for zoonotic disease. Infectious disease can spread rapidly in close contact environments like animal shelters. Some diseases or parasites are transmissible from animals to people (i.e. giardia) and if not promptly diagnosed or treated, could lead to a public health risk, especially if adopters are unaware. This is particularly concerning in the midst of a global pandemic born from a zoonotic coronavirus. Vt has a relatively low incidence of animal disease that are more common in other states. But through transporting - intrastate or interstate - unvaccinated animals and a lack of adherence to strict health protocols, make infectious disease more likely.
- There may be a lack of vaccination records etc for the dogs that could put other animals at risk
- zoonotic disease
- **As** happened a few years ago, bringing in diseases since animals are not quarantined prior to release to new owners. Distemper and parvovirus went around and several people spent thousands on puppies they just adopted to just have them die. Others came down with severe upper respiratory viruses, "kennel cough" and canine influenza. This as well as numerous parasites including coccidia, hookworms, whipworms, and most importantly heartworm! One rescue group was treating positive dogs holistically with dandelion weeds and telling people they were cured, only to have dogs still be deathly ill with it
- I have heard of pets from other areas of the country bringing parasites mostly, but also diseases that aren't common in the Northeast to Vermont and infecting other pets
- Permits animals to be brought into the state with minimal safeguards to prevent the introduction of diseases that may pose a threat to other pets, native Vermont species, and potentially human health. Vet certificates for each animal provide the only form of prevention, but without an enforcement mechanism it is impossible to know if health screenings are occurring as required or if the proper mitigation measures are in place.-
- Unregulated transports could easily lead to disease transmission, including diseases never seen before by Vermont veterinarians.
- If animals with a wide variety of illness are brought into Vermont, well intentioned folks could spread the diseases to others
- I am concerned about the lack of oversight regarding the health of animals brought into Vermont from other areas
- With unregulated practices, animals with unknown conditions are being brought into the state possibly carrying with them dangerous diseases. Rescues seeing the animals coming up are starting to form with no regulation on the standards of care, medical, or training animals need before going in a home. Some of these homes or foster having other animals or children. With no regulations, it is hard to make sure that the animals are being quarantined, are safe, and being treated humanely.
- Infectious and/or imported/infectious diseases and/or their vectors (ie: fleas, ticks, etc.)
- I find that many of these pets are carrying both communicable parasitic and viral diseases to our area without any oversight. Well meaning folks are making uneducated decisions based on little knowledge of how disease transmission works when justifying the transport of these animals, causing danger to our pet population, along without the chance for zoonotic transmission.

- Transporting animals from different areas poses significant risks for both animals and humans. These include many zoonotic diseases such as rabies, bloodborne/vectorborne diseases, internal and external parasites, etc.
- I practice in NH near the VT border. There are a number of groups that transfer dogs just over the border into VT and adopt out. I have seen these animals and they have intestinal parasites, mange, no health certificates, heart worm, etc. There should be some type of regulation.
- If pets are not properly vetted and vaccinated, rabies virus could be transmitted to an unsuspecting recipient.
- vast majority of pets from Lucky Pet Rescue are hookworm + and come in without health certificates- other rescues also guilty of no health certs
- Inadequate rabies and parasite prevention are leaving new adoptive families at risk of zoonotic diseases.
- If it's not regulated, one cannot be sure the animal has had a current rabies vaccine, and in a state with so much rabies-susceptible wildlife, there could be opportunity for the animal to contract rabies and expose humans handling it.

Community/Public safety

- There is currently no deterrent/penalty for inadequate sheltering/adoption practices in VT. Animals from unregulated rescues/shelters are seldom thoroughly evaluated for their medical condition and behavior. Aberrant behavioral concerns may not be disclosed to adopters which can result in bites, dogfights, aggression towards strangers, etc. all of which can pose a threat to the public. Additionally, improper management of animal behavior issues in the shelter/rescue setting can worsen the behavior and make the animal more of a challenge to the adopter and a potential danger to the public. In extreme situations, euthanizing an animal may be necessary and that can be hard emotionally for owners, shelter staff and community members. Lack of disclosure in the adoption of potentially dangerous animals can be injurious to the public who are living with them and often taking their pets to public places. There are many anecdotes of people attacked by their pet or another's pet, losing their pet to a preventable disease, or having to relinquish a pet that was unsuitable to their home. Adopted animals are often abandoned by their owners and become strays, due to the reluctance of the adoption agency in taking them back, These account for a significant percentage of any given town's animal control officer time. Once these animals enter that system, they pose a burden to the public safety system.
- , dangerous dogs
- I think that the unregulated transport of dogs and cats poses a risk to the public in this way, often little is known about the animals with regard to health and behavior. Thus these animals are being adopted into unfit/poorly matched homes. There is a cost to both the pets and the people involved as these animals make their way back into shelters and/or need additional training/vet visits.
- Behaviorally unsafe animals are a serious risk to the public but will be almost impossible to eliminate from transports since there is no validated temperament test that will determine safety/suitability and thus not really possible to regulate.
Transport partners

can describe behavior and choose good animals to transport, but it's very hard to imagine regulations that adequately protect against unsafe animals being transported.

- Allows the adoption of animals by organizations that may not be in a position to address behavioral or health issues in the animals or to accept the return of an animal if not the right fit for a household. In turn, failing to address underlying conditions with the animals may increase the risk to health and the safety of humans in that household and the public at-large. -
- I am concerned about the lack of oversight regarding the temperament of animals brought into Vermont from other areas
- Animals not being temperament tests before also seems to be a growing problem causing animals to be adopted out to homes that are not a proper or safe placement.
- Unregistered and newly adopted dogs are a Health Officers biggest worry with Nuisance calls and dog bites.
- Unknown breeding and/or socialization leads to potentially serious behavior problems as well.
- Also, the behavioral problems and challenges of inadequately screened dogs has been a real issues.

Workplace/Employment safety

- There are hundreds of individuals that work in animal settings throughout the state. Lack of regulations and poor facility management including non brick and mortar shelters/rescues, can lead to health hazards for staff (high levels of ammonia, chemical exposure, structural deficiencies). Potentially communicable disease as well as behavior concerns resulting in biting and dogfights can result in physical injury to the staff and community volunteers. A lack of proper education and training for staff contributes to these pernicious situations. Witnessing a decline in animals well-being due to unattended to medical/behavioral issues can affect those working with them leading to compassion fatigue and mental health issues of the caregivers which can affect the public both directly and indirectly

Emotional Distress/Financial Loss

- people who adopt currently have no recourse if the pet has health or behavioral issues. - there is no data on how many animals are arriving in VT, where they come from or where they go - with no oversight, some rescues become hoarding situations which require extensive community resources to deal with, including law enforcement and brick and mortar shelters, resources that could be better used elsewhere
- no help for adopters when adoptions go wrong
- My yes is just potentially. I have adopted a dog that was transported here and in going through the process saw much care going into the background checks, etc. However, I know there are many organizations, and that some animals are brought in vans full of crated dogs (or maybe cats) and people meet the van at a re t area and get an animal with which they have had no contact other than perhaps a cute picture. I find this troubling, and no dog getting out of a crate after travelling from Tennessee or Georgia or wherever is in a position to show its true personality, for good or bad.

- Too much money involved. I'm all for capitalism, but must be regulated because the greed of some will put profits ahead of the real issue-what's best for the animals.
- Then forced with treating the dog with expensive meds or letting the disease kill their newly adopted pet. No one's going to return the dog!
- Disease-wise, transport is more likely to negatively affect animal health vs human-- things like distemper, Parvo, respiratory illnesses. In these cases the impact would be on people's time and money but not their own health, safety and welfare. It's always possible to transport an animal with zoonotic disease but no more so than local animals probably (rabies, ringworm, etc).
- More dogs with serious health conditions are being brought in and adopted to people that may be unable to physically or financially handle the situation. We have seen multiple cases of both Parvo and heartworm in dogs from several new "rescue" groups that do not screen for or treat the dogs before adopting them out to unsuspecting Vermonters.

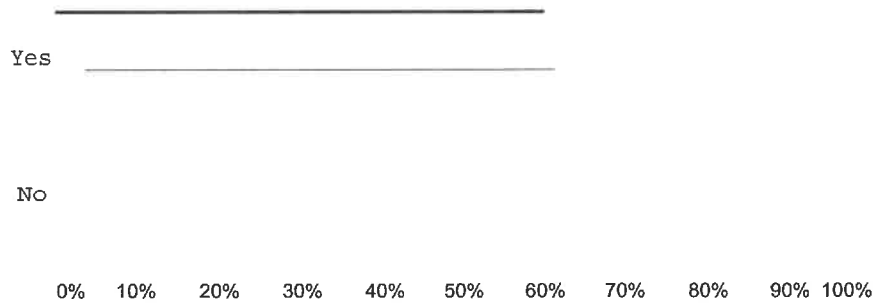
Reduce Access to Good Homes

- Over regulating will reduce access to good homes. Regulation comes with a cost that will make it harder for lower income Vermonters to afford pets. Some of these homes are great for adopted pets. Those placing pets for adoption already have the authority to complete due diligence on people trying to adopt and can make a decision based on information they have access to. The answer is not always more regulation!

Transport and Adoption of Dogs and Cats in Vermont SurveyMonkey

Q1 Does the unregulated practice of dog and cat transport and adoption in Vermont pose a harm or danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the public?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES

Yes

Yes

No

Total Respondents: 42

RESPONSES

2.38%

61.90%

35.71%

26

15

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Question #10

Why isn't the public protected from unprofessional practitioners through means other than regulation?

Since there are no regulations to protect the public from unscrupulous rehoming and transporting of companion animals in VT, there are no specific legal protections for consumers from unprofessional practice of these businesses. The default falls to other measures of enforcement such as, a municipality's animal control office or law enforcement when an animal is abandoned or hurts someone, the courts when someone is sued for selling a dangerous dog or when a misbehaved animal is destructive, or, someone needs medical attention after an attack by an animal, especially an unvaccinated animal. These are reactive rather than proactive measures for public protection and are not in the best interest of the consumer or the state.

While Vermont animal cruelty law defines a person as "any individual, firm, partnership, or corporation, or authorized agent or representative of a person, partnership, or corporation", and theoretically, the corporation could be charged with a violation of animal cruelty laws that impacts public safety, it seldom, if ever, happens. It is rare that a business is charged with a violation of the law mostly because there is insufficient oversight or ability for law enforcement to investigate systemic neglect or abuse. In general, Vermont judges are loathe to issue warrants for law enforcement to search businesses and seize items that could potentially impact people's livelihood, in the absence of a specific statutory basis.

That reluctance increases when the items to be seized are living animals who will require care throughout the court proceedings.

The Attorney General's Office handles consumer fraud related complaints but it does not appear that there is any law on the books that specifically regulate the malpractices of animal adoption and transport that adversely affect the public.

There is not sufficient recourse for someone in small claims court/civil litigation. For example, if someone felt aggrieved that the dog they adopted was represented to be free of all diseases and fully vaccinated, and it turned out that wasn't the case and there was injury to the owner, the person could sue in small claims court for breach of contract (if they didn't sign away their rights to do so in an adoption contract). The remedy would be for them to recover the costs associated with the breach, or to receive a dog that was fully vaccinated and free from disease, or to return the dog and get their money back. The human-animal bond and the potential emotional toll of relinquishing a pet makes these remedies less than desirable and the time, associated expense, and process of litigation to recover costs associated with medical care make people's choice to sue in small claims court unlikely.

Moreover, this recourse does not resolve the issue of regulating rescues and shelters so that their practices do not lead to an adverse risk to the public in the first place.

OPR Sunrise Review

Application

Question #20

What transitional provisions/"grandfather provisions" do you propose for current practitioners to obtain licensure?

Note: The following is intended as a *summary* of the proposed provisions that current (and new) practitioners will have to satisfy to be licensed. More detailed regulations will follow.

Minimum standards of the five areas include:

1. Facility

Structural

All exterior structures and fencing should:

- A. be constructed of building materials that will ensure the establishment of a sound physical structure.
- B. be maintained in good repair.
- C. protect animals kept therein from injury and ensure containment of animals within the shelter.
- D. exclude the entry of outside animals and unauthorized persons.
- E. include four solid walls on all buildings to protect animals from weather conditions and prevent entry of unauthorized persons.
- F. include fencing constructed sufficiently to prevent dogs from jumping or climbing or digging to escape.

Building

- A. Animal housing areas should be physically separated from places where food and drink for human consumption are prepared, served or stored.
- B. Interior building surfaces should be constructed and maintained so that they are impervious to moisture and may be readily cleaned.
- C. Animal food storage and equipment cleaning areas should, be physically separated from animal housing
- D. Reliable and adequate electric power and/or gas should be provided for lighting, air circulation, heating and cooling.

Animal Enclosure

Primary enclosures must provide sufficient space to allow each animal regardless of species, to make normal postural adjustments, e.g., to tum freely and to easily stand, sit, stretch, move their head, without touching the top of the enclosure, lie in a comfortable position with limbs extended, move about and assume a comfortable posture for feeding, drinking, urinating and defecating. In addition, cats and dogs should be able to hold their tails erect when in a normal standing position.

Sanitation

Written sanitation protocols should be developed in consultation with a veterinarian familiar with shelter medicine practices, to provide consistent and thorough sanitation of the facilities. Protocols should be periodically reviewed and updated to take into account current knowledge in the field.

Care and Handling

Animals should be fed twice daily (except when advised otherwise during veterinary treatment or in cases of malnutrition when smaller portions throughout the day are needed) to avoid medical problems associated with overeating. The food must be free from contamination, palatable, and of sufficient quality and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition, size, and age of the animal. Refrigeration should be provided for perishable food.

Animals housed in the same primary enclosure (where they eat, eliminate, rest, and sleep) should be maintained in compatible groups.

2. Capacity for Care

This is an industry standard formula that all organizations engaging in transporting and rehoming animals should abide by. The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare, developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council for livestock in an agricultural context, provide a compelling simple framework to define the minimum level of care expected for any animal in confinement:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
4. Freedom from fear and distress
5. Freedom to express normal behavior

The first four freedoms must be met with humane housing, pro-active population management and thoughtful medical protocols. The fifth freedom, freedom to express normal behavior, is extremely difficult to meet in the shelter setting, even with the best housing and care and thus limiting the amount of time an animal is in the shelter further supports providing this freedom. Assuring C4C also supports meeting a Sixth Freedom, the freedom from euthanasia for animals that are neither terminally ill nor dangerous. Providing high quality housing and optimizing length of stay (LOS) through pro-active management are two key factors in assuring C4C for every animal in the shelter.

Achieving capacity for care involves creating humane space as well as developing and implementing programs that allow the shelter to function at a level where every animal enjoys the Five Freedoms and staff is provided an environment where they can do a good job - all while helping just as many, if not more animals.

3. Transport

To engage in the transport of canine and feline companion animals, the following must be adhered to ensure public health and safety:

1. All participants must be committed to abiding by all local, state, and federal regulations

2. Humane standards of care must be afforded to every animal before, during, and after transport

The destination organization must:

1. Have a community demand from adopters for animals being accepted
2. Not euthanize animals that are healthy or treatable and do not pose a danger to the public or other animals due to issues of space or time.
3. Have a strong infrastructure appropriate to the volume of animals being transported.

Requirements for transported animals prior to transport:

1. All animals must have received a valid health certificate within 15 days of transport.
2. All animals 12 weeks of age and older must be vaccinated for rabies, including appropriate re-immunization
3. Felines must receive FVRCP Modified live vaccine, Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia
4. Canines must receive DA2PP Modified live vaccine, Distemper, Adenovirus 2 (Hepatitis), Bordetella, Parvo, Parainfluenza
5. All rabies-vaccine eligible animals will have been vaccinated for Rabies and have a valid Rabies Certificate

Transport vehicle and travel requirements:

1. The transport vehicle must be safe for animals.
2. There must be sufficient airflow and temperature control (maintained between 60°F and 75°F)
3. Loading of crates/carriers must ensure adequate airflow and ventilation for every animal and be safely secured for traveling.
4. Transport vehicles and equipment must be cleaned and sanitized to industry standards
5. Appropriate housing must be used for all animals.

4. Adoption

The adoption process creates a relationship between pets and people as well as the community and the animal welfare organization. Much of the organizations' work is centered on preparing and supporting animals for adoption into a new loving home. At the core of adoption is the promotion and protection of the human-animal bond. The adoption process must support that goal and is based on creating trust and respect between adopters and the organization. The goal is to create the best outcomes for the people and animals involved.

Healthy relationships can be defined as mentally and physically positive and rewarding for the animal and the person, taking into account the sustainability of that relationship throughout the animal's life. Understanding what the animal and family both need and expect is paramount to creating a successful outcome. To this end, best practices create a framework for discussions and will support healthy relationships at the time of adoption and beyond. Our definition of a successful adoption is aligned with the 5 essentials of an adoption identified during Adoption Forum 2:

1. The match is suited to the individual animal and family

2. The pet would be afforded appropriate veterinary care
3. The pet's social, behavioral, and companionship needs would be met
4. The pet would have a livable environment
5. The pet would be respected and valued
6. If an organization has adopted/rehomed an animal, the organization must accept that animal as a return no matter its condition or how much time has passed. To help facilitate this process, returns need to be given priority for admission by the adopting organization.

5. Animal Behavior

Assessment of an animal's behavior is integral to public safety and must begin at the time of intake. Ongoing assessment of each animal's behavior should continue throughout the animal's stay in the shelter. Manifestations of normal and abnormal behavior indicate how successfully an animal is coping in their environment. Therefore, staff must be trained to recognize body language and other behaviors that indicate animal stress, pain, and suffering as well as those that indicate successful adaptation to the shelter environment. Animals must be monitored daily in order to detect trends or changes in well-being and respond to their behavioral needs. Staff should record their findings each day. Departures from the normal behavior and appearance of an animal may also be an indication that the animal is in pain. When pain or suffering is recognized in animals, it is imperative that prompt, appropriate steps be taken to alleviate it.

Some individual shelter animals may experience severe stress that is difficult to alleviate even with optimal practices. However, if many animals are displaying signs of unrelieved stress, steps must be taken to improve the shelter's stress reduction protocols. For humane reasons, long-term confinement must be avoided for feral animals and for those who remain markedly stressed/fearful and are not responding to treatment/behavioral care. *Ideally, a systematic behavioral evaluation should be performed on all animals prior to re-homing or other placement.* Organizations that develop their own evaluation should do so in consultation with a veterinarian or behaviorist familiar with the science and theory of behavior assessment. (Taken from Guidelines for Standards of Care in Shelter Animals by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians 2010)

OPR Sunrise Review

Application

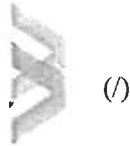
Question #24

What is the applicant seeking to gain through regulation of the occupational group? What benefit does regulation bring to members of this occupational group?

The applicant believes that the lack of regulations around the import and adoption of companion animals in Vermont poses a threat to the public as well as to the practitioners engaged in the work. Examples of the potential risks to the health, safety, or welfare of the public are outlined in Question #8 of this application.

A licensure requirement would help to ensure that individuals and organizations in Vermont engaged in the intake, care and adoption of canines and feline companion animals through a shelter, rescue organization, or humane society et.al. abide by a minimum of generally accepted standards of care and best practices. Regulations addressing communicable disease, facility infrastructure and sanitation, dangerous animals who often end up in the municipal system, and the potentially adverse financial impact to pet owners who are burdened with the cost of extensive training and medical treatment for animals not properly vetted, are necessary to prevent hardship on unwitting adopters, animal and customer care workers, municipal animal control officers, law enforcement officers, social workers and others who come into contact with companion animals through these transactions.

Through a licensure process, professionals working in the animal welfare occupational group would be assured that the expectations are the same for everyone and that one group is not shouldering the burden of care for those who are not abiding by standards and best practices, including law enforcement. An enforcement mechanism is integral to an effective licensure process.



CODE OF ETHICS

[About» WhoWe Are \(/page/aboutsawa}](#) » [Code of Ethics](#)

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Humane Treatment and Responsible Stewardship

"In a general sense, ethics is the name we give to our concern for good behavior. We feel an obligation to consider not only our personal well-being, but also that of others and of human society as a whole." -Albert Schweitzer

Purpose

Formal codes of ethics, in themselves, are never enough. No document can cover every eventuality. No series of rules and procedures can guarantee ethical behavior. But establishing a formal code of ethics is crucial because it sets the tone, defines the issues and articulates the values and visions of the organization. Codes of ethics are public announcements. They are statements about the beliefs and intentions of the organization. Codes help to define both the issues at stake, and exactly who has a stake in the issues. Codes help to clarify rights and obligations and articulate an unmistakable minimum

8/2/2021

and making ethical decisions.

Code of Conduct

The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement promotes communication that is respectful, honest, and direct. Understanding that there are different philosophies, opinions and views, it is essential that The Association professionals treat one another with respect and dignity and be accountable for a standard of transparency and disclosure.

The Association embraces ethical communication and respectful public discussion and opposes efforts that encourage threats, hateful or derogatory language, and mistruths. These behaviors are unprofessional, divisive, and harmful to the collective mission.

Values

"Unless all members of an organization share a common vision and a similar series of values, the objective, purpose, and/or goals of that organization cannot and will not be achieved." -James MacGregor Burns

We believe in the intrinsic dignity and sanctity of human life.

We believe in the intrinsic dignity and sanctity of animal life.

We believe all animals are entitled to be free from suffering, abuse and exploitation.

We believe that companion animals are a product of human intervention and that we have a special obligation to them in regard to humane treatment and responsible stewardship

We believe we have an obligation to alleviate suffering.

We believe we have an obligation to prevent cruelty.

We believe that people should treat each animal as kindly as possible.

We believe we have a duty to protect and care for the suffering and homeless.

We believe that our values, decisions, conduct and behavior should set the tone and be a model for others in their care and treatment of animals.

The commitment, care and attention we afford to both human beings and animals is only differentiated by degree and not by kind.

Organizational Policy and Values

"The culture of any organization can be documented in its rules and values, but the

members." -Allan Cox

I. HONESTY

Communicate consistently, truthfully and with integrity inside and outside of the organization.

Accept responsibility for our actions.

Provide honest and accurate information regarding agency policies, procedures and programs like fund raising and the disposition of animals.

II. RESPECT

Treat all living creatures with respect and dignity.

Create an open environment which encourages and solicits input from all stakeholders.

Recognize the value of each individual or group.

Acknowledge socio-economic, cultural, ethnic and philosophical differences.

Advocate and model respectful behavior through individual and organizational example.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

Apply all applicable laws impartially with organizational guidelines.

Provide humane treatment and care for animals.

Seek ways to improve the operation and delivery of services. Pursue excellence.

Share information and seek input from, educate, and cooperate with others.

IV. BE FAIR and JUST

Use good judgment instead of being judgmental.

Listen to and consider opposing viewpoints.

Make informed decisions without personal bias.

Apply consistent principles in decision-making while allowing for flexibility.

V. CARING and COMPASSION

Strive to provide for the physical and psychological needs of people and animals.

Encourage and support board and staff development.

Provide a humane and dignified death for animals using recommended and approved methods.

Extend the principles of caring and compassion to the public.

VI. CITIZENSHIP

Represent the organization in a professional manner.

Strive to promote positive and collaborative relationships with other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

MY PROFILE

- My Feed (<https://theaawa.org/members/dashboard.aspx>)
- Profile Home (<https://theaawa.org/members/>)
- Manage Profile (https://theaawa.org/members/manage_profile.aspx)
- Groups (/members/my_groups.asp)
- Networks (/members/my_networks.aspx)
- Files & Links (/members/resource_collection_list.asp?uid=60082502)
- Messages (</messaging/>)
- Refer a Friend (</members/send.asp>)

111 CALENDAR

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8/5/2021

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The Round table: Building Stronger Communities for Pets and People (</events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1537901>)

8/12/2021

The Roundtable: Beyond Best Practices: How to Make Big Changes Happen (</events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1537902>)

8/19/2027

The Roundtable: Supporting Equines Through Adoption & Safety Net Programming (</events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1537905>)

8/26/2021

The Round table: Preparing Your Agency for Disaster (</events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1537906>)

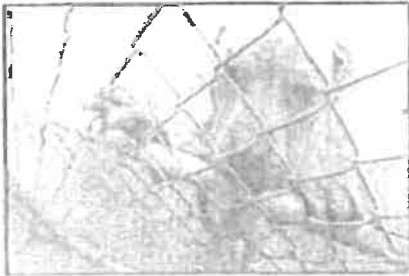
NEWEST MEMBERS

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(</members/default.aspx?id=67539608>)

A. Rainey
(</members/default.aspx?id=67519538>)

E. Carper
(</members/default.aspx>)

Shelter Standards Task Force



The ASV Shelter Guidelines project was initiated by the 2007 Board of Directors.

The Guidelines are currently under review.

[Read Press Release](#)

[Read FAQs](#)

RESOURCES

- [Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animals *page 1s*](#)
 - [french Translation](#)
 - [Danish Translation](#)
 - [Portuguese Translation](#) *(This translation has been provided by a third party No liability is assumed by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians for any errors, omissions or ambiguities in the translation.)*
 - [Polish Translation](#) *(This translation has been provided by a third party No liability is assumed by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians for any errors, omissions or ambiguities in the translation.)*
 - [Persian Translation](#) *(This translation has been provided by a third party No liability is assumed by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians for any errors, omissions or ambiguities in the translation.)*
- [ASV Shelter Guide UoEs Webinar Series](#)
- [Shelter care Checklists: Putting ASV Guidelines into Action](#)

GOALS

- Provide shelters and communities a tool for self-assessment and improvement
 - Increase consistency of care across US
 - Promote highest standards of welfare, for existing facilities as well as new construction
- Provide sound reference material for regulatory purposes when communities look for guidance
- Provide a benchmark for when corrective action is needed
 - Create a living document that will be responsive to developments in shelter medicine and animal care
 - Establish what is required for a decent quality of life for populations of companion animals
 - Dispel notions that high morbidity and mortality from disease and injury is the norm in shelters
 - Connect expectations of sanitation, medical care, and mental/behavioral well-being to acceptable sheltering, and dispel any notion that

ASV founded at American Humane Association Conference in Washington, DC

First Shelter Medicine residency at UC Davis

First position statements written

Shelter Guidelines task force begins

First Shelter Medicine Organizing Committee formed

Drafted shelter medicine job task analysis

board specialty **begin**

Formal discussions of medicine task analysis

Shelter Medicine

First shelter medicine track **atAVMA**

First shelter medicine track **atABVP**

Practice examination

FirstABVP Shelter Medicine

2001 2005 2007 : **2009** 2011 2013 2015



ASVAnnual Meeting moves to NAVCin Orlando, FL

Veterinary Task Force to Advance Spay-Neuter created

ASV Spay/Neuter Guidelines published

Residency standards developed

ASVAnnual Meeting moves to ABVP Symposium

Specialty petition accepted by **ABVP**

Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters published

ABVS votes for provisional recognition of Shelter Medicine Practice

State Shelter & Rescue Registration/Recordkeeping Laws (note: NOT verified by APL)

These tables are from 2016 and have not been updated or verified by the applicant

Noteworthy:

Virginia is the only state that requires records be entered into a database accessible and searchable by the general public (<http://arr.vadacs.com/ci-bin/tvdacssearch.cfm>)

Colorado's Pet Animal Facilities Act (PACFA) has the most comprehensive set of laws applicable to animal care entities of all types.

<http://www.colorado.gov/oacjfic/aa:nspect:ontocafca>

17 states have some form of licensing/registration/certification mechanism in place for some or all shelters; 13 have such a requirement in place for rescue groups

30 states have some recordkeeping requirements in place for some or all shelters (note this does not mean they must make those records publicly available); 13 states have such requirements in place for rescue groups

23 states have some form of inspection requirement for some or all shelters (ranges from solely inspection before license issuance to mandatory annual inspection); 10 have inspection requirements for rescues, although in most cases it is unclear whether the practical implications of inspection of foster-based groups was considered

	Registration/Licensing Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Recordkeeping/Reporting Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Inspection Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)		
	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes
AL			None			None			None
AK			None			None			None
AZ			None			None			None
AR			None			None			None
CA			None	V		CA FAC § 32003			None
CO	V	V	C.R.S.A. § 35-80-101-117	V	V	C.R.S.A. § 35-80-107	V	V	§ 35-80-110
CT			None			None	V		Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22-336 (Commissioner MAY inspect)
DE			None	V		77 Del. Laws, c. 418, § 7	V		79 Del. Laws, c. .azz...S 1. (inspection reports made

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State Shelter & Rescue Registration/Recordkeeping Laws (note: NOT verified by APL)

	Registration/Licensing Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Recordkeeping/Reporting Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Inspection eutha	
	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Res
DC			None			None		
FL			None			FL XLVI 823.15		
GA			O.C.G.A. 4-11-3 requires licensing of shelters and rescues			O.C.G.A. § 40-13-13-.02 htt i2:U www.agr. georgia.gov Lrescue- grouQs.as Qx		
HI			None			None		
ID			None			None		
IL			IL ST CH 225 § 605L3; includes licensing requirements for foster homes			225 Ill. Com Q. Stat. 605L3.2 (foster homes) Ill. Admin. Code tit. 8, § (foster homes) Ill. Admin. Code tit. 8, 25.130 (shelters) Ill. Admin. Code tit. 8, § (shelters)		
IN			None Animal control is not mandated			None		
IA			I. C. A.§ 162 .1 to 25 IA ADC 21-67.12 Rescue groups are considered "dealers" pursuant to IA Code 162.2.11			I. C. A.§ 162.4 IA ADC 21-67.5 IA ADC 21-67.12 {13}		

09/02/2016

State Shelter & Rescue Registration/Recordkeeping Laws (note: NOT verified by APL)

	Registration/Licensing Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)		Recordkeeping/Reporting Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)		Inspection Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)	
	Shelters	Rescues	Shelters	Rescues	Shelters	Rescues
		Notes http://www.iowaagriculture.com/... nimalWelfareFAQ.as(2				
KS	VK.A.R.	VK.A.R.	V	V	V	V
				KAR. 9-22-3		Kan. Admin. Regs. 9-18-2 (pre-license inspection required, each licensed premises is subject to routine inspection thereafter)
KY		None				None
			County shelters that want to be eligible for funding must report KYST \$258.119(3)(b)(9)			
LA		None	V		V	LA Rev Stat§ 3:2463 (2015) (shelters shall be inspected once every 6 months)
						01-001-701 Me. Code R. § I (authorized)
ME	V	7 M.R.S. A. § 3932-A ME ADC 01-001 Ch. 701, Uhl	V	ME ADC 01-001 Ch. 701, § I .KI	V	

State Shelter & Rescue Registration/Recordkeeping Laws (note: NOT verified by APL)

	Registration/Licensing Requirements (n on-euthanasia-related)			Recordkeeping/Reporting Requirements (n on-euthanasia-related)			Inspection Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)		
	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes
MD			None statewide (Baltimore City requires licensinQ)			None statewide (Baltimore City requires recordkeeping)			agents are allowed access to facilities) None
MA	V municipals and intrastate transport facilities	V (for intrastate transport		V municipals and intrastate transport facilities	V (for intrastate transport		V municipals and intrastate transport facilities	V (for intrastate transport	
MI	V		Mich. Com a.Laws § 287.336 requires registration	V		Mich. Co mQ. Laws § 287.339a MI ADC R. 285.151.13	V		Mich. Comp. Laws§ 287.338 Inspection is required before license issued
MN	Non-municipal shelters must obtain kennel license Ml:Jn. Statutes 347.34			Non-municipal shelters must maintain records		None	Non-municipal shelters must be inspected "from time to time"		Minn. R. 1721.0520
MS			None			None			None
MC	V	V	V.A.M.S. 273.327	V	V	Mo. Code Regs. Ann. tit. 2, § 30-9.020(11)(D) (2006)	V	V	Mo. Rev. Stat§ 273.331 (2006) (inspection

State Shelter & Rescue Registration/Recordkeeping Laws (note: NOT verified by APL)

	Registration/Licensing Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)		Recordkeeping/Reporting Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)		Inspection Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)	
	Shelters	Rescues	Shelters	Rescues	Shelters	Rescues
MT		None	V			
NE	V	Title 23, Chapter 18, NAC 004	V	V	V	NE Rev. S. 54-628 (inspection required every 2 years)
NV		None				None
NH	II	N.H. Rev. Stat. 437:1	II		II	N.H. Rev. Stat. 437:8 (once yearly inspections required)
NJ	II (licenses issued by municipality)	4:19-15.8	II		II	N.J. A.C. 8:23A-I.1
NM		None				None
NY		None				N.Y. Agric. & Mkts. § 107 (1999) requires any city of over

State Shelter & Rescue Registration/Recordkeeping Laws (note: NOT verified by APL)

	Registration/Licensing Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Recordkeeping/Reporting Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Inspection Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)		
	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes
NC	V		N.C. Gen. Stat. §19A-26 (2006) requires certificate of registration	V		02 NCAC 52J .0103; § 19A-65 Every county/city shelter or contracting shelter must submit annual report	V		02 NCAC 52J .0201 (facilities are subject to inspection)
ND			None			None			None
OH		Ohio Revised Code §956.06 requires registration of any "animal rescue for dogs"		"Pound-keepers" must keep and submit impound records to county treasurer Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §955.16E					None
OK			None (Cities like Oklahoma City may require)			None			None
OR		V 609.420		OAR 603-015-0060 requires a "record of sale" be kept by shelters and pounds	V 609.415		V		609.420 authorizes inspections
PA	V	V	See: http://www.doh.state.pa.us	V	V	3 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 459-207	V	V	3 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 459-218 Kennels must be inspected twice

State Shelter & Rescue Registration/Recordkeeping Laws (note: NOT verified by APL)

	Registration/Licensing Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Recordkeeping/Reporting Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Inspection Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)		
	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes
RI	V	V	RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ANIMAL CARE FACILITIES Rule 9; http://des.nj.gov/document/entb/entbrehivg1.rgpdfcs/rel_ccar.d/04ff0E1W12_5.pdf	V	V	RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ANIMAL CARE FACILITIES, Rule 6; http://des.nj.gov/document/entb/entbrehivg1.rgpdfcs/rel_ccar.d/04ff0E1W12_5.pdf	V	V	R.I. Gen. Laws 4-19-15 (facilities can be inspected at reasonable times)
SC			None			S.C. Code Ann. § 47-3-60 (C) Complete records must be kept by shelter officials as to the disposition of all animals impounded			None
SD			None						None
TN			None						None
TX			None	TAC 25:1:§169.26 requires records to be kept by shelters in counties with popula-				Health & Safety Code Ann. § 823.003 (each person who operates a shelterina county with 75,000+ people	

State Shelter & Rescue Registration/Recordkeeping Laws (note: **NOT** verified by **APL**)

	Registration/Licensing Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Recordkeeping/Reporting Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Inspection Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)		
	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes
UT			None statewide			None statewide			None statewide
VT			§ 3903. REGISTRATION OF ANIMAL SHELTERS AND RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS was repealed in 2016						None
VA			None (per VDACS)	Va.Code Ann.§ 3.1-796.96	wa. Code Ann.§ 3.1-796.96:5	Reports by all releasing agencies are available online	¶¶		Va. Code Ann. § 3.1-796.96:2
WA			None			None			None
WV			None	WV 19-20-S(f)A records shall be kept by dog warden and transcript furnished to the sheriff quarterly.					None

State Shelter & Rescue Registration/Recordkeeping Laws (note: NOT verified by APL)

	Registration/Licensing Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Recordkeeping/Reporting Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)			Inspection Requirements (non-euthanasia-related)		
	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes	Shelters	Rescues	Notes
WI	-J	-J	W.S.A. §173.4 1; requires licensing of any shelter or rescue that takes in 25+ animals per year	V		W.S.A. § 17 3.4 1	-J		W.S.A. §17 3.41 requires inspection every 2 years
WY			None			None			None