



New England Federation of Humane Societies Annual Report 2007

Mission Statement

In order to create a more humane world, the New England Federation of Humane Societies provides education, training, information, and networking opportunities to support the missions of animal protection organizations.

Who We Are

The New England Federation of Humane Societies (“the Fed”) is a non-profit organization comprised of organizations and individuals dedicated to animal welfare and protection.

Our major focus is to provide animal professionals in our region with the best possible training and networking opportunities—so they can do a better job helping the animals they care for.

In recent years, animal sheltering and the animal welfare business have become progressively complex. The Fed has responded to the resulting need for personal and organizational development by providing coaching, educational experiences, and learning opportunities which will ultimately enhance the lives of our constituency and help the animals who are entrusted to our collective care.

The Fed draws on talent from many parts of New England's animal care, sheltering, and welfare community, and we tap into the expertise of animal professionals throughout the nation.

President's Message, *Leslie Harris*

The New England Federation of Humane Societies exemplifies all that is good about animal sheltering and welfare: collaboration, professionalism, and education.

Each year, our Annual Training Conference combines the expertise of nationally-known speakers with regional experience. Fed Town Meetings are shining examples of the way New Englanders can come together to share opinions, make decisions, and live respectfully with our differences.

Late in the summer of 2007, Maine's state animal welfare agency took legal action against a puppy mill where hundreds of dogs languished in inhumane conditions. The resulting impoundment of nearly 300 dogs overwhelmed local animal care agencies. Responders from across our region were rallied to the site to help care for the dogs until they could be placed. I'm proud that, just as with Hurricane Katrina in 2005, New England animal welfare workers selflessly stepped up to serve.

I welcome each of you to join the Fed—as a volunteer, an advisory council member, or an event attendee. The opportunities abound to meet new colleagues, exchange ideas, and build a stronger humane movement in New England.

Programs and Services

The Fed strives to be agile and responsive in meeting the needs of our members while, at the same time, enhancing their opportunities to develop as animal welfare professionals. The following overview provides a snapshot of the programs, services and activities offered to help individual members increase their professional capacities.

Annual Training Conference

The Annual Training Conference, the Fed's signature event, has long been recognized as one of the premier conferences in the country. Attracting animal welfare professionals from across the region, our conferences provide top-notch learning opportunities, unparalleled networking, and a chance to reconnect with old friends and colleagues. Each of the six New England states hosts the conference on a rotating basis.

The 2007 conference held at the Viking Hotel in Newport, Rhode Island, included varied and timely topics in animal welfare, such as a series of sessions on dog behavior and evaluation, working with feral cats, and improving a philanthropy program. The 2007 conference also invited humane educators—or organizations looking to launch a humane education program—to consider non-traditional educational programs for at-risk youth, learn to form youth animal protection clubs, and discuss strategies for educating adult learners.

The hallmark of any Fed event is the opportunity to network with friends and peers. With our conference hotel located only blocks from the historic Newport waterfront, we were surrounded by unique stores, a wide variety of restaurants, and inviting places to congregate. Our opening reception and vendor party gave conference goers an opportunity to rub elbows with our sponsors and exhibitors while re-connecting with old friends.

NEFHS Scholarship Fund

The Fed offers scholarships to its Annual Conference to help provide affordable, professional training to as many animal care workers as possible each year.

For the 2007 Conference, the Board allocated \$3,500 for scholarships. This amount included \$2,750 from our generous conference sponsors and enabled 14 applicants to receive assistance. Scholarship recipients represented front-line and administrative staff from shelters and animal control agencies in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Each year at the Annual Conference, we hold a raffle of interesting and unique items for conference attendees to bid upon. The proceeds from the raffle benefit the scholarship fund for the subsequent conference. Catalyst-level sponsorships (\$1,000) and other sponsorships are integral to the continuance of the scholarship program.

Town Meetings

The Fed Town Meeting is designed to bring people together to examine important topics from a variety of perspectives. The goals are two-fold: to help us deepen our understanding of complex animal protection issues, and to develop new approaches and solutions together.

In March of 2007, the Fed sponsored a Town Meeting at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. The topic, *Mandatory Spay/Neuter*, attracted about 75 people on a Friday afternoon. Each panelist presented information from her unique perspective, which resulted in a very

thorough and thought-provoking discussion about this very confusing topic. Attendees left with data and anecdotal information as well as a different way of looking at the issue.

In November 2007, we once again found ourselves at the University of New Hampshire in Durham for a town meeting on *Canine Behavior Evaluations*. A top-notch panel of experts joined the audience in a discussion of the scientific basis for evaluations, the effectiveness of evaluations in predicting future behavior, and the current state of the shelter dog in New England.

The Fed continues to explore new topics and welcomes input from members.

Treasurer's Report

The following is the Treasurer's Report for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2007.

Balance Sheet

	<u>Dec 31, 07</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
11135 - Citizens Checking Account	28,370.06
Total Checking/Savings	<u>28,370.06</u>
Other Current Assets	
11201 - Inventory	1,689.75
Total Other Current Assets	<u>1,689.75</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>30,059.81</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>30,059.81</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
38000 - Unrestricted Fund Balance	17,595.08
38040 - Dialog Education Fund	1,035.00
38045 - Disaster Response Fund	14,206.52
38050 - Scholarship Fund	-1,038.06
Net Income	-1,738.73
Total Equity	<u>30,059.81</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>30,059.81</u></u>

This report includes the NEFHS balance sheets as of 12/31/07. Complete Profit and Loss statements for the 1/01/07-12/31/07 period are available from the Treasurer upon request.

Board of Directors 2007

The following is a list of the members of the NEFHS Board, who serve four-year terms.

Name	Affiliation
Leslie Harris, President	Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society, Leverett & Greenfield, MA
David Betournay, 1 st Vice President	Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire, Bedford, NH
Nicholas Gilman, 2 nd Vice President	Humane Logic, Boston, MA Oakville, CT
John Denardo Treasurer	MSPCA, Boston, MA
Angela Nickerson, Secretary	Good Dog Training & Behavior Services, Maynard, MA
Susan DiMeo	PAWS, Wakefield, MA
CherylAnn Fernandes	Animal Vocation Resources, LLC, New York, NY
Stephanie Frommer	Monadnock Humane Society, West Swanzey, NH
Linda Huebner	MSPCA, Springfield, MA
Sandra Monterose	ASPCA, Oakville, CT

Advisory Council 2007

Advisory Councilors serve for one-year terms that are renewable on an annual basis.

Name	Affiliation
Allison Allen	ASPCA, New York, NY
Carmine DiCenso	MSPCA, Boston, MA
Michael Keiley	MSPCA at Nevins Farm, Methuen, MA
Katie Lisnik	HSUS, Portland, ME
BJ Rogers	Humane Society of Chittenden County, Burlington, VT

Contact Information:

Web site: www.newenglandfed.org

Email: info@newenglandfed.org

Phone: Leslie Harris, 413-548-9898 x2

Mailing address: c/o DPVHS, P.O. Box 319, South Deerfield, MA 01373