



The NATIONAL FEDERATION of HUMANE SOCIETIES

September 21, 2009

Member Organizations

A Refuge for Saving the Wildlife, Inc.
Animal Humane Society
Animal Care League
Animal Lovers League
Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
Animal Welfare League of Arlington
Animal Welfare Society
Asheville Humane Society
California Animal Control Directors Assoc.
Capital Area Humane Society
Capital Humane Society
Chataqua County Humane Society
Cleveland Animal Protective League
Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies
Dubuque Regional Humane Society
Dumb Friends League
Erie County SPCA
Greenhill Humane Society
Hawaiian Humane Society
House Rabbit Society
Humane Society of Broward County
Humane Society of Indianapolis
Humane Society of Kent County
Humane Society at Lollypop Farm
Humane Society of Memphis & Shelby Co.
Humane Society of the United States
Illinois Animal Welfare Federation
Michigan Humane Society
Monroe County Humane Association
Naperville Area Humane Society
New Hampshire SPCA
Norfolk SPCA
North County Humane Society & SPCA
Oregon Humane Society
PAWS Chicago
Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League
Peoria Humane Society
Potter League for Animals
Richmond SPCA
Sacramento SPCA
Salem Animal Rescue League
San Francisco SPCA
Southeast Area Animal Control Authority
Southern Oregon Humane Society
SPCA Cincinnati
SPCA Los Angeles
SPCA for Monterey County
SPCA Tampa Bay
SPCA of Texas
St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center
Tails Humane Society
Washington Animal Rescue League
Washington Humane Society
Wayside Waifs Humane Society
Wisconsin Humane Society

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The National Federation of Humane Society is the nation's largest trade advocacy organization, representing many of the nation's largest and most-established humane organizations. Our members represent the interests of millions of Americans who actively support animal welfare services and programs.

While we are concerned about animal welfare matters in local communities, we recognize that the federal government has a leading role to play in addressing animal welfare problems in our nation, related to the care of companion animals, farm animals, horses, animals used in research, and wildlife. **We write you today to urge you to create a White House Liaison on Animal Welfare to demonstrate your commitment to animal welfare principles and to help better coordinate and implement animal welfare programs that are conducted by a myriad of federal agencies.**

According to The Humane Society of the United States, there are at least 17 federal agencies that do work with implications for animal welfare. Agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency have massive animal welfare portfolios. Some of these agency activities are overlapping, and many are certainly complementary. By appointing a liaison in the White House, the Office of the President can streamline implementation, track progress on activities and maximize the value to animal protection by these agencies. In addition, it will certainly assist communications to our community and thereby to our member's ardent supporters.

There are tens of millions of animal advocates residing in every community in the country. All too often, policies are driven by crisis circumstances, rather than by a strategic approach to these matters. During hurricane Katrina we certainly saw the importance of animals in the lives of many Americans, willing to risk their own lives rather than part with their beloved pets. The love of animals unites millions of Americans and represents a powerful constituency. Almost every community

"There is a strong voice for animals when we all speak as one."™

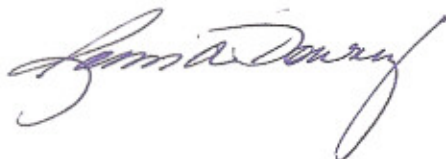
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has a local humane organization, sometimes dozens, along with wildlife rehabilitation groups and other supporting organizations all dedicated to caring for and protecting animals. There are no political sides to animal welfare, people from all walks and stations in life care deeply for animals. You yourself witnessed this deep and direct connection when you announced your desire to have a dog in the Obama family.

We are convinced that greater oversight by a central source within your Office will result in more effective results and certainly will foster better communication. An Animal Welfare Liaison would facilitate better inter-agency communication, keep your Office updated on issues and challenges occurring in animal welfare and would effectively communicate your messages to Congress while demonstrating your direct connection with animals to the American people.

We ask that you demonstrate a pro-active approach to animal welfare issues by appointing an Animal Welfare Liaison within the Office of the President.

Respectfully,



Robert A. Downey
Chairman of the Board

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