

**ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY  
OF  
JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
Jefferson Memorial Hospital  
Board Meeting Room  
Ranson, WV  
November 16, 2003**

**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**  
For Calendar Year 2003

At the end of my sixth and final year as board president with the Animal Welfare Society I am proud of my association with this fine organization. I wish to thank all of the board members who devote so much time and energy to this cause. I must resign from the presidency and the board to pursue other things in my life, but more importantly, to allow room for younger and more energetic board members.

The mission of the Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County is, and has been, to provide services that benefit both animals and people through a variety of programs, including the operation of an animal shelter, provision of humane education (there is a correlation between animal neglect and abuse and child abuse and societal violence) and the proactive promotion of spaying and neutering as a means of reducing the number of homeless animals in the county.

Among the services provided by the Animal Welfare Society to the community are operation of an animal shelter on Leetown Pike where pets can be adopted. At this shelter we provide food, care and other services for kittens, cats, puppies and adult dogs. We vaccinate and deworm all incoming animals and test all cats for feline leukemia, to ensure the animals are healthy when adopted. We require that the animals we adopt out be spayed or neutered and we make arrangements with local veterinarians to do this inexpensively, **before**, adoption.

We also provide information to the general public on animal care, the importance of spaying and neutering, behavior training, health risks affecting animals and people (e.g., rabies, injured wildlife), and other matters relating to animals. We promote kindness toward and respect for animals through special events, public service announcements, humane education programs in the schools (an activity I hope can be greatly expanded soon), a regular column in the Spirit of Jefferson Farmers Advocate, dissemination of information, and a semi-annual newsletter. We also provide financial assistance for spaying/neutering of pets in an effort to reduce the homeless animal population.

While calendar year 2002 was also a good year as far as programs and services go, financially it was not so good, and we ended the year with a substantial operating funds deficit. But our board did not give up, and 2003 saw a number of special fund raising events, plus financial aid from the Jefferson County Commission, an allocation increase from United Way, and some significant bequests. Calendar year 2003 should end with AWS being on relatively more secure financial footing.

To maintain and enhance this financial security I strongly suggest (1) getting more members on the board and getting a greater diversity of board members, and (2) having more "efficient" fund raising events and events that generate more income.

I must thank the United Way, again, for its generous support and the very positive and helpful attitude it has always displayed towards the AWS. I certainly also thank those who designated the AWS for their United Way contributions.

Our capital project to improve the shelter generally and the dog kennel area specifically is proceeding and we hope to have the work complete by June 30, 2004.

It has been a privilege to be associated with the AWS and thanks, again, to the AWS board and to all of our supporters in this community.

Respectfully,

Jeff Bresee, President  
11/16/03